

Institutionalizing the Participation of Accredited Citizens' Arm in the Verification and Certification of List of Voters			
Verification and Certification of List of Voters			
2023-2025			
Brief Description of the Commitment	Commitment: Complete, accurate and updated list of qualified voters in all electoral exercises through the verification and certification of the Election Day Computerized Voters List (EDCVL) and Posted Computerized Voters List (PCVL)		
	<p>The commitment aims to emphasize the importance of institutionalizing the role of accredited citizens' arms in ensuring that the voters list to be used in all electoral exercises are complete, accurate and updated, through its verification and certification during the Election Registration Board (ERB) Meeting set for the purpose.</p>		
	<p>The commitment is in line with the policy of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters.</p>		
	<p>The participation of the citizens' arms in the verification and certification process of the EDCVL and PCVL, shows that we are also committed in upholding the Commission's policy on transparency and participative democratic process.</p>		
Commitment Lead	Comelec		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Department of Education (DepEd), Judiciary, and key officials of Local Government Units (LGUs)	Accredited citizens' arms	n/a
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eliminate the perennial problem of incomplete, inaccurate and outdated voters list; thus, upholding the integrity and sanctity of the electoral processes;</i> • <i>Quash the doubts of the public resulting to higher voter trust rating, that the list of voters generated in all elections are accurate and complete through the joint verification of representatives from the Comelec, DepEd, LGUs, and the accredited citizen's arm existing in the locality; and</i> • <i>Issue on transparency is dealt with, due to the total and active participation of accredited citizens' arms in the conduct of verification, certification, and sealing of the voters' list.</i> 		

<p>2. What are the causes of the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inaccurate list of voters is caused by the failure of some Offices of the Election Officer (OEOs) to properly cleanse their respective list by deleting/deactivating voters registration records based on of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8189, otherwise known as the "Voter Registration Act of 1996" and pertinent rules on the system of continuing registration of voters;</i> • <i>Failure of other government agencies such as the Offices of the Local Civil Registrars and Courts of Justice to timely and completely provide the Commission with the lists of deceased persons of voting age and individuals sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment of not less than one (1) year, respectively;</i> • <i>Failure of some OEOs to send a Notice of Approval of transfer of registration record to OEOs of origin, thus, resulting to multiple/double registration without the voter's fault; and</i> • <i>Erroneous encoding of demographic details in the Voter Registration System (VRS).</i>
<p>Commitment description</p>	
<p>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resolutions have been promulgated establishing the procedure in the verification and certification of the list of voters;</i> • <i>Manual inclusion and cross-out of names of voters from the list are performed during the conduct of the ERB Meeting for the verification and certification of the above list;</i> • <i>Several memoranda have been issued constantly reminding OEOs of their duty to properly cleanse the list of voters through the deactivation/deletion of registration records;</i> • <i>OEOs are reminded to fully coordinate with their counterpart local civil registrar to obtain the complete monthly list of deceased persons of voting age;</i> • <i>Accredited citizens' arms are provided with soft copies of voters list, to allow them to cascade the same to their local chapters for verification purposes; and</i> • <i>Representation with the Supreme Court, through the Court Administrator, for the early resolution of inclusion and exclusion cases, and submission of the list of persons with final conviction by concerned courts to the OEOs.</i>
<p>2. What solution are you proposing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>OEOs should strictly perform the cleansing process (deletion/deactivation/manual inclusion or cross-out of voter's name);</i> • <i>OEOs to establish proper communication channels with concerned government agencies relative to the cleansing of voters list;</i> • <i>Accredited citizens' arms should have local chapters or accredited election stakeholders in all cities/municipalities across the country to ensure maximum participation in the conduct of verification and certification of voters list;</i> • <i>Encourage other civic groups and organizations, non-governmental organizations, and political parties to vigilantly observe the above activity; and</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Institutionalize the practice of concerned government agencies in regularly providing the Commission, through the OEOs, with the complete and accurate lists of deceased voters and those sentenced by final judgment as mentioned above.</i>
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Very high public trust rating due to accurate, complete, and updated voters list as a result of the joint effort of the Commission and the concerned stakeholders;</i> <i>Active participation of local chapters of accredited citizens' arms in the verification and certification of voters list of all cities/municipalities nationwide; and</i> <i>Encourage civic organizations, political parties, and the public to vigilantly observe the conduct of the above verification and certification.</i>
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This is in line with the policy of R.A. No. 8189 to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters.</i>
Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The participation of accredited citizens' arms and presence of other stakeholders during the conduct of verification and certification of voters list will raise public confidence regarding its accuracy, considering that the verification process involves multi-party checking. The policy of transparency is thus observed, in all aspect of the electoral process; and</i> <i>Such mechanism, once made widely known to the public, increases awareness that the voters list utilized during elections is a product of extensive preparation of Comelec personnel and counterchecking by ERB members and accredited citizens' arms, --- witnessed by several stakeholders, no less.</i>
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Verification and certification of the voters list is a responsibility that does not fall solely on Comelec's shoulders. The ERB Members, composed of the Election Officer, Local Civil Registrar, and DepEd official most senior in rank, obviously come from different agencies, which make the process a multi-partite responsibility and accountability, shared amongst the Members, including the representatives of the citizens' arms.</i>

3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Comelec is constitutionally mandated to enforce and administer election laws and regulations. One of its main responsibilities in the conduct of election, is the generation and printing of complete and accurate voters list. Since a clean list is one of the necessary elements of a credible election, it is likewise the concern of the voting public to safeguard the same and ensure that those included in the list are truly qualified to vote. Being such, the engagement of the public in general is indispensable even in an observer capacity.</i>
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Commitment Planning

(This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)

Milestones <i>(Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)</i>	Expected Outputs <i>(Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented.)</i>	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Resolutions on the conduct of verification and certification of list of voters which institutionalizes the protocols thereof have already been promulgated by the Commission En Banc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Uniform implementation thereof nationwide</i> <i>Full and active participation of all local chapters of the citizens' arms in the activity</i> 		Lead: Comelec		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)
			Lead:		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)

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Designated Technical Focal Person	
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Non-Government Commitment Holder (If Any)	
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Title, Department	
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Phone Number	
Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	

Approved by

CN: 177-23

CHAIRMAN GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Increase in Number of Registered Overseas Voters			
Conduct more Overseas and Local Field Registration Activities for Overseas Voters			
Brief Description of the Commitment	This commitment is to increase the number of registered voters overseas to ensure that qualified Filipinos, who will be abroad during the overseas voting period, may still exercise their right of suffrage for the Philippine National Elections.		
Commitment Lead	Commission on Elections (COMELEC)		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)	-	Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO)
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>There are a number of overseas Filipinos who are not yet registered as overseas voters due to various reasons. One of the prevailing reasons is the issues relative to the accessibility of registration sites (location, schedule, etc.)</p> <p>The COMELEC has undertaken steps to increase overseas and local field registration activities to decrease the issues mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and in turn, increase the number of registered overseas voters.</p> <p>Overseas field registration activities are already being implemented abroad by foreign service posts, but additional efforts to conduct even more are necessary to encourage overseas Filipinos in far locations (with respect to the Post with jurisdiction over their residence) or those available only during weekends (due to their work), to register and eventually vote in the national elections.</p> <p>Similarly, local field registration activities are also being implemented. Through Memoranda of Agreement entered into with partner agencies (DFA, DMW, MARINA), the COMELEC has established local field registration centers (LFRCs) within the premises of the offices of said partner agencies.</p> <p>In this regard, the commitment to conduct more overseas and local field registration activities aims to address the following problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Low number of registered overseas voters; and b. The accessibility of the registration process. 		
2. What are the	1. The approved budget allocated for the conduct of overseas field registration activities is limited and severely		

causes of the problem?	<p>lacking;</p> <p>2. Manpower complement of the COMELEC-Office for Overseas Voting is insufficient to establish more LFRCs at more locations;</p> <p>3. There are qualified Filipinos who are only available to visit Embassies/Consulates/LFRCs on weekends due to their work; and</p> <p>4. High mobility of overseas Filipinos due to the nature of their work or period of their employment contract, and unforeseen circumstances such as the onset of the pandemic or conflict between countries leading to repatriation.</p>
Commitment description	
1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?	The conduct of overseas and local field registration activities is already being undertaken despite the limited budget allocated (for overseas) and lack of manpower complement (for local).
2. What solution are you proposing?	<p>1. Increase in the approved budget to be allocated for the conduct of overseas field registration, so that the Foreign Service Posts will be able to reach more distant locations within their jurisdiction where overseas Filipinos reside.</p> <p>2. The long term solution is the reorganization of the COMELEC-OFOV to increase its manpower complement to sufficiently answer the ever growing needs of the office (increase in number of overseas voters, number of Posts etc.). For the interim, an increase in the approved budget allocated for the hiring of Contract of Service personnel and/or Job Order casuals to help respond to the needs of the office.</p>
3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	The conduct of additional overseas and local field registration activities will hopefully increase the number of registered overseas voters, which will in turn help increase the overseas voter turnout during national elections.
Additional Information	This commitment is in line with the Philippine Constitution and the Overseas Voting Act of 2013.
Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer (if not applicable, just answer with N/A)
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	N/A
2. How will the commitment help foster	N/A

accountability?					
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?	The conduct of more overseas and local field registration activities ensure that more overseas Filipino citizens will be able to actively participate in the electoral process. The said overseas Filipino citizens will be able to exercise their right of suffrage even if they are residing in another country during the overseas voting period. This will give them a sense of participation and being involved in what is happening in the Philippines.				
Commitment Planning (This is an initial planning process largely looking at milestones and expected outputs, as well as key stakeholders involved.)					
Milestones (Milestones are part of a series of actions or events that, when executed, will lead to the achievement of the result the commitment would like to achieve)	Expected Outputs (Outputs are concrete, objectively-verifiable results that are direct products of activities conducted or implemented)	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
Additional budget allocated for the conduct of overseas and local field registration activities. Possible reorganization of COMELEC-OFOV to increase number of <i>plantilla</i> positions to answer the ever growing needs of the office, which includes manning of LFRCs.	More overseas and local field registration activities will be conducted during the overseas voter registration period.	For the 2025 National Elections, on 30 September 2024 (which is the last day of overseas voter registration)	Lead: COMELEC		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)
			DFA DMW MARINA		MECO

Contact Information	
Accountable Senior Official	
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Designated Technical Focal Person	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Non-Government Commitment Holder (If Any)	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	-
Title, Department	-
Email Address	-
Phone Number	-
Other Actors Involved	
State actors involved	-
CSOs, private sector, multilaterals working groups	-

Approved By:

CN: 577-22

CHAIRMAN GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Strengthen Election Laws through Codification and Updating of All Election-Related Statutes			
Election Laws Revision and Codification			
September 2022 – December 2023			
Brief Description of the Commitment	To come up with a single document which may consists of several, if not all, up-to-date election laws that intends to guide the stakeholders and more importantly the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) as implementer in ensuring expediency, accuracy, and completeness in the manner these laws are administered and enforced.		
Commitment Lead	COMELEC		
Supporting Stakeholders	Government	Civil Society	Other Actors (Private Sectors, etc.)
	Congress	-	-
Problem Definition			
1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?	<p>Implementers, particularly the concerned officials and personnel of the COMELEC, often find themselves in a tedious situation where they are obliged to make prior re-evaluation and harmonization of existing election laws each time an electoral exercise is held.</p> <p>There is an increasing demand of an improved and modernized election law administration and enforcement by the stakeholders (i.e., voters, candidates, incumbent public officials, political parties, etc.).</p> <p>A number of civil society and government stakeholders have raised that provisions of various election laws are no longer adequate to address present situations. Also, the supposed outdated provisos make it difficult for the implementers to act in unanticipated events.</p> <p>In order to cope up with the unprecedented electoral demands as well as respond to unforeseen circumstances relative thereto, the COMELEC and legislature work hand in hand in recommending and enacting laws, respectively, to address the present particular need/issue. The partial or piecemeal amendment of election laws is seen impractical and taxing by the legislature.</p>		
2. What are the causes of the problem?	<p>1. The legal bases for the varied aspects related to the conduct of an electoral exercise are found not in the supposed "Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines", but in a wide array of separately enacted statutes.</p> <p>2. The fast-paced world necessitates electoral reforms and modernization. Unfortunately, the Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 otherwise known as the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines (OEC) and some election laws are already outdated and not responsive to modern election day circumstances.</p> <p>3. The COMELEC, in spearheading the continuous cycle of preparing for and administering the conduct of various</p>		

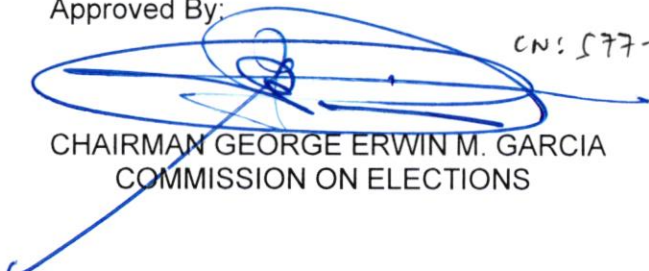
	electoral exercises taking place regularly and as needed, is often forced to direct its attention and resources to other matters hence, the delay in the creation of a committee for purposes of codifying and revising election laws.
Commitment Description	
1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?	<p>The COMELEC created the <i>Committee on the Revision and Amendment of Election Laws</i> (Committee)¹ composed of representatives from the different Departments and Offices of the COMELEC, Law Department included, with Atty. Ernesto Ferdinand P. Maceda, Jr. (Comm. Maceda) as Commissioner-in-Charge.</p> <p>The Committee deems that the codification and revision of election laws may begin by considering the outdated OEC as the primary working draft. Meantime, Senate Electoral Reforms and People's Participation Committee chaired by Sen. Maria Imelda Josefa Remedios "Imee" Romualdez Marcos (Sen. Imee Marcos), forwarded to the COMELEC its own draft of amended OEC for comment. The COMELEC through the Office of Commissioner Rey E. Bulay (Comm. Bulay) is now reviewing the draft transmitted by Sen. Imee Marcos.</p> <p>Upon submission of the final draft of the OEC to Comm. Bulay, the Committee endeavors to start with the codification of all special election laws. Within six (6) months therefrom, the Committee intends that the draft codified election laws be submitted to Comm Maceda for review.</p> <p>The Law Department has already identified all laws relating to the different phases and aspects of the conduct of an automated and a manual type of electoral exercise (whether regular or special election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, and recall) that need codification.</p> <p>Further, in January 2023, the Law Department submitted to the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (DEDO) its initial comments on and proposed amendments to existing special election laws. It was likewise recommended therein that the initial submission be referred to the concerned Departments, Offices or Committee members for further review and comment.</p>
2. What solutions are you proposing?	<p>Since legislation is critical to the establishment and functioning of the modernization process, the COMELEC, as it had demonstrated in the past, commits to offer its full support and assistance to the Congress in creating a code covering all election laws.</p> <p>In contrast to the prior piecemeal amendments of the election laws, there is now the proposed overall revamping or overhaul of the OEC and consequently the incorporation therein of new electoral processes and milestones. The intended revision further cleanses the OEC of antiquated sections and those provisions inconsistent with the 1987</p>

¹ The Committee was created under the Chairman's Memorandum No. 2022-188. Also, recommendation that it be renamed as the *Committee on the Revision and Codification of Election Laws* or CORCEL was made so that the objective to codify election laws is emphasized as forming part of its function and purpose.

	Constitution.		
	Furthermore, all special election laws are already identified and relevant amendments have been recommended and accordingly incorporated in the draft submitted to DEDO for comment.		
3. What results do you want to achieve by implementing this commitment?	An up-to-date codified election laws that shall provide the necessary aid in achieving convenience, precision, and comprehensiveness in the area of election law administration and enforcement.		
Additional Information	The commitment is anchored on the mandate of the COMELEC as the main enforcer of laws relative to various electoral exercises embodied in Section 2 (1), Article IX-C of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines.		
Commitment Analysis			
Questions			
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	N/A		
2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?	N/A		
3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing and monitoring solutions?	N/A		
Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
Codified Updated	▪ Conduct of multiple meetings to discuss the amendments	▪ October 2023	Lead: COMELEC
			Supporting

Election Laws	recommended by competent Office/Department.		<u>Stakeholders</u>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance of final draft of the codified election laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2023 	Governme nt	CSOs	Others (Private Sector, etc.)
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