

Eden



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

JOMEX
White
11:10 AM

**IN THE MATTER OF
SUSPENDING THE CONDUCT
OF PLEBISCITES IN
PREPARATION OF THE
CONDUCT OF THE MAY 9,
2016 NATIONAL, LOCAL AND
ARM ELECTIONS**

**BAUTISTA, J. Andres D.,
LIM, Christian Robert, S.,
PARREÑO, Al A.,
GUIA, Luie Tito F.
LIM, Arthur D.
GUANZON, Ma. Rowena Amelia V.
ABAS, Sheriff M.**

**Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner**

x -----x Promulgated: June 10, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 9968

WHEREAS, under Article XI (C), Section 2 paragraph 1 of the Constitution, the Commission on Elections shall enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum and recall;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in *Cagas vs. COMELEC*¹, upheld the Commission's power to defer the conduct of all plebiscites so as to enable the Commission to focus all its attention and concentrate all its manpower and other resources on its preparation for the May 2013 National and Local Elections;

WHEREAS, in the same case, the Supreme Court, likewise upheld the Commission's power to hold a plebiscite simultaneously with an election²;

WHEREAS, the Commission, via Minute Resolution No. 15-0397 dated May 19, 2015 scheduled on July 11, 2015, a plebiscite to ratify the creation of seven (7) new barangays as separate and distinct barangays from its Mother Barangay of San Vicente in San Pedro City, Laguna;

WHEREAS, at the present, the following are the requests for the conduct of plebiscites pending before the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations:

1. Plebiscite to ratify the change of name of Barangay Baluga to Barangay Sto. Niño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija;
2. Plebiscite to ratify the change of name of Barangay Kabayan Barrio to Barangay Kebajan, Kabayan, Benguet;
3. Plebiscite to ratify the creation of Sitio Tumibo into a separate barangay out of Barangay Tangal, Lubang, Occidental Mindoro;

¹ G.R. No. 209185 dated October 25, 2013.

² "The COMELEC's questioned Resolution then directing the holding of the plebiscite for the ratification of R.A. No. 10360 simultaneously with the Barangay Elections was not an abuse of its discretion, as alleged, but simply an exercise of prudence, because as the COMELEC itself noted, doing so "will entail less expense than holding it separately."

- 4. Plebiscite to ratify the creation of Sitio Naibuan into a separate barangay out of Barangay Batasan, San Jose, Occidental, Mindoro; and
- 5. Plebiscite to ratify the change of name of Barangay Dumalneg to Barangay Kabaritan, Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte.

WHEREAS, the Commission has started preparing for the conduct of the May 9, 2016 National, Local and ARMM Elections;

WHEREAS, in order to concentrate all its resources in the preparation of the May 9, 2016 National, Local and ARMM Elections, there is a need to set a cut-off date for the conduct of plebiscites;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, and other election laws, has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to defer, effective August 1, 2015 the conduct of all plebiscites until after the May 9, 2016 National, Local and ARMM Elections, unless the Commission, in the exercise of its discretion, decides to hold a plebiscite on, before or simultaneously with the May 9, 2016 National, Local and ARMM Elections.

Let the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations and the Education and Information Department implement this Resolution.

The Education and Information Department, this Commission, shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SO ORDERED.



ANDRES D. BAUTISTA
Chairman



CHRISTIAN ROBERT S. LIM
Commissioner



LUIE TITO F. GUIA
Commissioner

(On Official Business during the deliberation of this matter on June 9, 2015)

MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner



AL A. PARREÑO
Commissioner



ARTHUR D. LIM
Commissioner



SHERIFF M. ABAS
Commissioner

