



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"FAIR ELECTION ACT", IN
CONNECTION WITH THE 12 MAY
2025 NATIONAL, LOCAL, &
BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS.**

**GARCIA, George Erwin M., Chairman
INTING, Socorro B., Commissioner
CASQUEJO, Marlon S., Commissioner
FEROLINO, Aimee P., Commissioner
BULAY, Rey E., Commissioner
MACEDA, JR., Ernesto Ferdinand P., Commissioner
CELIS, Nelson J., Commissioner**

Promulgated: 09 December 2024

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RESOLUTION NO. 11086

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9006, otherwise known as the "Fair Election Act" provides for the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections through fair election practices;

WHEREAS, the said Act allows the publication or broadcast of political advertisements or propaganda for or against any candidate or political party;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the said Act provides that election propaganda, whether on television, cable television, radio, newspapers or any other medium shall be subject to the supervision and regulation of the Commission on Elections (hereafter, "COMELEC");

WHEREAS, Section 6.4 of the said Act directs the COMELEC, to supervise in all instances the use and employment of press, radio and television broadcasting facilities insofar as the placement of political advertisements is concerned so as to give candidates equal opportunity under equal circumstances to make known their qualifications and stand on public issues within the limits set forth in the Omnibus Election Code and Republic Act No. 7166¹;

¹ RA 7166, entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING AND APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES".

WHEREAS, technological advancements continue to progress at a rapid pace, leading to the development and availability of innovative platforms and tools that can be utilized in electoral campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the same Act requires the COMELEC to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, the COMELEC, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code as amended, the Fair Election Act as amended, Republic Act Nos. 6646², 7166³ and other related laws has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following Rules and Regulations:

SECTION 1. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Resolution:

- (a) ***“Billboard”*** refers to a signboard, identification, illustration, image, picture or any other devise for outdoor advertisement consisting of a support structure, a display or message area, an optional lighting system and related components installed on land, building or property to attract or direct attention to a particular product, service, idea, information, design, system, activity, institution, business, belief and or personality. A ***“static billboard”*** refers to printed traditional billboards while ***“LED or digital billboards”*** are billboards made of electronic displays that are controlled remotely by computers.
- (b) ***“Blog/collective blog”*** and ***“vlog/collective vlog”*** refer to websites on which an individual or group of users, respectively, record news, opinions, and information, in varying degrees of regularity.
- (c) ***“Candidate”*** refers to any person seeking an elective public office, who has filed his or her certificate of candidacy, and who has not died, withdrawn his or her certificate of candidacy, had his or her certificate of candidacy denied due course or cancelled, or has been otherwise disqualified before the start of the campaign period for which he or she filed his certificate of candidacy. Provided, that, unlawful acts or omissions applicable to a candidate shall take effect only upon the start of the campaign period.

It also refers to any registered national, regional, or sectoral party, organization or coalition thereof that has filed a manifestation of intent to participate under the party-list system, which has not withdrawn the said manifestation, or which has not been disqualified before the start of the campaign period.

² An Act Introducing Additional Reforms In The Electoral System And For Other Purposes

³ Supra At Note 1

(d) "*Election campaign*" or "*partisan political activity*" refers to an act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office, and shall include among others:

- (1) Forming organizations, associations, clubs, committees, or other groups of persons for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate;
- (2) Creating any social media platform, user groups or community pages, for the purpose of conducting campaigns or related partisan political activity;
- (3) Holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades or other similar assemblies for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign or propaganda for or against a candidate;
- (4) Making speeches, announcements, or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate;
- (5) Publishing, displaying, or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or
- (6) Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against any candidate.

(e) "*Election survey*" refers to the measurement of opinions and perceptions of the voters as regards a candidate's popularity, qualifications, platforms or matters of public discussion in relation to the election, including voters' preference for candidates or publicly discussed issues during the campaign period.

(f) "*Electoral advertisement (ads)*" and "*electoral posts*" refers to medium and social media posts that have for their primary purpose the promotion of the victory or defeat of an official candidate.

(g) "*E-rally*" refers to a large meeting held to show support for or against a candidate which is conducted online.

(h) "*Exit polls*" refers to a species of election survey conducted by a qualified individual or a group of individuals for the purpose of determining the probable result of an election by confidentially asking randomly selected voters for the names of candidates they have voted for, immediately after they have officially cast their ballots.

- (i) "*Livestreaming*" refers to the live broadcasting of an event over the internet.
- (j) "*Mass Media*" refers to diversified technologies, operating on various platforms, that have for their primary purpose the transmission of information and communication to a large audience. These platforms include broadcast, internet and mobile, print, and outdoor.
- (k) "*Mass Media Entities*" refer to individuals and organizations that exercise control over these technologies and determine, whether directly or indirectly, the content being distributed using these technologies.
- (l) "*Media practitioner*" refers to a person who is not employed by a media entity but performs similar functions or has control over what is printed or broadcast such as a talent or a block timer.

Persons who create online content for personal or collective blogs/vlogs and micro-blogs shall be considered media practitioners for purposes of these Rules.

- (m) "*Micro-blog*" refers to a blogging format which allows users to exchange small elements of content - referred to variously as posts, entries or status updates - such as short sentences, individual images, or links to video materials among others, uploaded to the Internet.
- (n) "*Online campaigning*" refers to the use of the internet to distribute campaign propaganda. This includes text-only posts on social media, pictures, audio clips, and video clips, regardless of duration, and all combinations of such formats.
- (o) "*Party*" refers to either a political party, whether national or sectoral party, or a coalition of parties, and party-list organizations duly registered or accredited with the COMELEC. This shall include parties that will be participating in the Bangsamoro Parliamentary Election.
- (p) "*Political advertisement*," or "*election propaganda*" refers to any matter broadcasted, published, printed, displayed or exhibited, in any medium, which contains the name, image, logo, brand, insignia, initials, and other symbol or graphic representation that is capable of being associated with a candidate, and is exclusively intended to draw the attention of the public or a segment thereof to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of the said candidate or candidates to a public office. In broadcast media, political advertisements may take the form of spots, appearances on television shows and radio programs, live or taped announcements, teasers, and other forms of advertising messages or announcements used by commercial advertisers.

Political advertising includes endorsements, statements, declarations, or information graphics, appearing on any internet website, social network, blogging site, and micro-blogging site, which - when taken as a whole - has for its principal object the endorsement of a candidate only, or which were posted in return for consideration or are otherwise capable of pecuniary estimation.

- (q) "**Social Media**" refers to the collective of online communication channels, including websites and applications, that enable users to create and share content, collaborate, and interact with each other. For purposes of these Rules, video sharing sites which allow users to post comments on individual entries shall be considered as falling within the broad category of "social media. Social media is a form of mass media.
- (r) "**Social Media Account**" refers to a user's personalized access to a social networking site or application, typically using a username and password combination. A social media account allows a user to interact with other users on the same social networking site.
- (s) "**Social Media Post**" refers to any text, audio, or graphic content - or any combination thereof - published online using a social media account.

SECTION 2. Campaign Period for the 12 May 2025 National, Local, and Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections. - For purposes of the 12 May 2025 National, Local, and Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections, the campaign period shall be as follows, subject to Section 3 hereof:

- (a) For President, Vice-President, Senators and Party-List groups participating in the Party-List system, ninety (90) days before the day of the election, or from 11 February 2025 to 10 May 2025;
- (b) For Members of the House of Representatives and elective provincial, city, municipal officials, including the Bangsamoro Parliament, forty-five (45) days before the day of election or from 28 March 2025 to 10 May 2025.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Campaigning. - It is unlawful for any person or for any political party, or association of persons to engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity on 17 April 2025 (Maundy Thursday), 18 April 2025 (Good Friday), 11 May 2025 (eve of Election Day), and 12 May 2025 (Election Day).

SECTION 4. Prohibition against Foreign Intervention. - It is unlawful for any foreigner, whether a juridical or natural person, to directly or indirectly aid any candidate, or political party, organization or coalition, or to take part in, or

influence in any manner, any election, or to contribute or make any expenditure in connection with any election campaign or partisan political activity.

SECTION 5. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Parties. - The aggregate amount that a candidate may spend for an election campaign shall be as follows:

- (a) For candidates with political party - Three pesos (₱ 3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where the candidate filed his/her certificate of candidacy;
- (b) For other candidates without any political party and without support from any political party - Five pesos (₱ 5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where the candidate filed his/her certificate of candidacy; and
- (c) For political parties and party-list groups - Five pesos (₱ 5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

SECTION 6. Lawful Election Propaganda. - Election propaganda, whether on television or cable television, radio, newspaper, the internet or any other medium, including outdoor static and light-emitting diode (LED) billboards and mobile or transit advertisement is hereby allowed for all *bona fide* candidates seeking national and local elective positions, subject to the limitation on authorized expenses of candidates and parties, observation of truth in advertising, and to the supervision and regulation by the COMELEC.

Lawful election propaganda shall include:

- (a) Pamphlets, leaflets, cards, decals, stickers, or other written or printed materials the size of which does not exceed eight and one-half inches (8 1/2") in width and fourteen inches (14") in length;
- (b) Handwritten or printed letters urging voters to vote for or against any particular party or candidate for public office;
- (c) Posters or standing displays ("standees") made of cloth, paper, cardboard, or any recyclable material, whether framed or posted, with an area not exceeding two (2) feet by three (3) feet;
- (d) Streamers not exceeding three (3) feet by eight (8) feet in size, displayed at the site, and on the occasion of a public meeting or rally. Said streamers may be displayed five (5) days before the date of the meeting or rally and shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours after said meeting or rally;

- (e) Mobile units, vehicles, motorcades of all types, whether engine or manpower driven or animal drawn, with or without sound systems or loud speakers and with or without lights; Pamphlets, leaflets, cards, decals, stickers, or other written or printed materials posted on mobile units, vehicles, or motorcades shall be subject to the size limitations provided for in this Section;
- (f) Paid advertisements in print or broadcast media subject to the requirements set forth in Section 11 hereof and the Fair Election Act;
- (g) Outdoor and static or LED billboards owned by private entities or persons;
- (h) Mobile or transit advertisement on public utility vehicles provided that the advertisement is consistent with the guidelines of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for commercial advertisements;
- (i) Signboard displayed in the headquarters subject to the limitation provided in Section 24 hereof;
- (j) All other forms of election propaganda not prohibited by the Omnibus Election Code or these rules.

Candidates and parties are required to incorporate sign language interpreters and closed captioning in broadcast election propaganda intended for exhibition on television and/or the internet, and are encouraged to ensure the availability of their respective printed campaign materials in Braille.

SECTION 7. Environmentally Sustainable Election Propaganda. - Parties and candidates are hereby encouraged to use recyclable and environment-friendly materials and avoid those that contain hazardous chemicals and substances in the production of their campaign and election propaganda.

They are likewise required to indicate in their printed campaign materials the phrase: "This material should be recycled or disposed of responsibly."

In local government units (LGUs) where a local legislation governing the use of plastic and other similar materials exist, parties and candidates shall comply with the same.

SECTION 8. Prohibited Forms of Election Propaganda. - During the campaign period, it is unlawful:

- (a) To print, publish, post or distribute any newspaper, newsletter, newsweekly, gazette or magazine advertising, pamphlet, leaflet, card,

decal, bumper sticker, poster, comic book, circular, handbill, streamer, sample list of candidates or any published or printed political matter and to air or broadcast any election propaganda or political advertisement by television or radio or any outdoor election propaganda in the form of static or LED billboards or mobile/transit advertisement for or against a candidate or group of candidates to any public office, unless they bear and be identified by the reasonably legible, or audible words "*political advertisement paid for*," followed by the true and correct name and address of the candidate or party for whose benefit the election propaganda was printed or aired.

It shall likewise be unlawful to publish, print or distribute said campaign materials unless they bear, and are identified by, the reasonably legible, or audible words "*political advertisements paid by*," followed by the true and correct name and address of the payor.

- (b) To print, publish, broadcast, display, or exhibit any such election propaganda donated or given free of charge by any person or publishing firm or broadcast media entity to a candidate or party without the written acceptance of the said candidate or party, and unless they bear and be identified by the words "*printed free of charge*," or "*airtime for this broadcast was provided free of charge by*," respectively, followed by the true and correct name and address of the said publishing firm or broadcast entity;
- (c) To show, display or exhibit publicly in a theater, through a television station, a video sharing site, social media network, or any public forum any movie, cinematography or documentary, including concert or any type of performance portraying the life or biography of a candidate, or in which a character is portrayed by an actor or media personality who is himself or herself a candidate;
- (d) For any newspaper or publication, radio, television or cable television station, or other mass media entity, or any person making use of the mass media, to sell or give free of charge print or advertising space or airtime for campaign or election propaganda purposes to any candidate or party in excess of the size, duration or frequency authorized by law or these Rules. A newspaper or publication, radio, television or cable television station, or other mass media, or any person may require any buyer to warrant under oath that such purchase is not in excess of the size, duration or frequency authorized by law or these Rules;
- (e) For any radio, television, cable television station, announcer or broadcaster to allow the scheduling of any program, or permit any sponsor to manifestly favor or oppose any candidate or party by unduly or repeatedly referring to, or unnecessarily mentioning his or her name, or including therein said candidate or party;

(f) To post, display or exhibit any election campaign or propaganda material outside of authorized common poster areas, in public places, or in private properties without the consent of the owner thereof;

Public places include any of the following:

- (1) Publicly-owned electronic announcement boards, such as LED display boards located along highways and streets, LCD monitors posted on walls of public buildings, and other similar devices which are owned by local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, or any agency or instrumentality of the Government;
- (2) Motor vehicles used as patrol cars, ambulances, and for other similar purposes that are owned by local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, and other agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, particularly those bearing government license plates;
- (3) Public transport vehicles owned and controlled by the government such as the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT), and Philippine National Railway trains and the like;
- (4) Waiting sheds, sidewalks, street and lamp posts, electric posts and wires, traffic signages and other signboards erected on public property, pedestrian overpasses and underpasses, flyovers and underpasses, bridges, main thoroughfares, center islands of roads and highways;
- (5) Schools, public shrines, barangay halls, government offices, health centers, public structures and buildings or any edifice thereof; and
- (6) Within the premises of public transport terminals, owned and controlled by the government, such as bus terminals, airports, seaports, docks, piers, train stations and the like.

(g) To print, publish, post, show, display, distribute any election campaign or propaganda materials that are violative of gender sensitivity, considered as obscene, offensive, or constitutes a violation of the Magna Carta of Women⁴.

The printing press, printer, or publisher who prints, reproduces or publishes said campaign materials, and the broadcaster, station manager, owner of the radio or television station, or owner or administrator of any website who airs

⁴ Republic Act No. 9710, also known as "THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN".

or shows the political advertisements, without the required data or in violation of these rules shall be criminally liable with the candidate under Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code and, if applicable, further suffer the penalties of suspension or revocation of franchise or permit in accordance with law.

Nothing in these rules shall be construed as limiting the authority of the appropriate agencies and instrumentalities of the government to promulgate their own rules and regulations, regarding the posting of political print advertising on any regulated land, sea and air vehicle, including but not limited to public utility vehicles and tricycles.

SECTION 9. Respect for Intellectual Property Rights. – Candidates and parties shall ensure that intellectual property rights are respected in the production of their election propaganda and in the conduct of their election campaigns. Any violations of intellectual property law, rules, and regulations shall be referred to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) for their appropriate action.

SECTION 10. Request for Authority to Use Other Election Propaganda. – Any person seeking authority to use other forms of election propaganda not covered by those enumerated in Section 6 hereof and not prohibited by law may file with the COMELEC *En Banc*, through the Commission Secretary, a request describing the election propaganda sought to be authorized with samples thereof.

SECTION 11. Requirements and/or Limitations on the Use of Election Propaganda through Mass Media. – All *bona fide* candidates shall have equal access to media time and space for their election propaganda during the campaign period subject to the following requirements and/or limitations:

(a) Broadcast Election Propaganda

The duration of air time that a candidate or party may use for their broadcast advertisements or election propaganda shall be, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| For Candidates/ Registered Political Parties for a National Elective Position | Not more than a total of one hundred twenty (120) minutes of television advertisement, on a per station basis, whether appearing on national, regional, or local, free or cable television, and one hundred eighty (180) minutes of radio advertising, on a per station basis, whether airing on national, regional, or local radio, whether by purchase or donation. |
| For Candidates for a Local | Not more than a total of sixty (60) minutes of television advertisement, on a per station basis, whether |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Elective Position | appearing on national, regional, or local, free or cable television, and ninety (90) minutes of radio advertising, on a per station basis, whether airing on national, regional, or local radio, whether by purchase or donation. |
|-------------------|---|

In cases where two or more candidates whose names, initials, images, brands, logos, insignias, symbols, or forms of graphical representations are displayed, exhibited, used, or mentioned together in the broadcast election propaganda or advertisements, the length of time during which they appear or are being mentioned or promoted will be counted against the airtime limits allotted for the said candidates.

Appearance or guesting by a candidate on any bona fide newscast, bona fide news interview, bona fide news documentary, if the appearance of the candidate is incidental to the presentation of the subject or subjects covered by the news documentary, or on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events, including but not limited to events sanctioned by the COMELEC, political conventions, and similar activities, shall not be deemed to be broadcast election propaganda within the meaning of this provision.

For purposes of monitoring by the COMELEC and ensuring that parties and candidates were afforded equal opportunities to promote their candidacy, the broadcast media entities shall give prior written notice to the COMELEC, through the appropriate Regional Election Director (RED), or in the case of the National Capital Region (NCR), the Education and Information Department (EID).

If such prior written notice is not feasible or practicable, the notice shall be sent within twenty-four (24) hours from the first broadcast or publication. Nothing in the foregoing sentence shall be construed as relieving broadcasters, in connection with the presentation of newscasts, news interviews, news documentaries, and on-the-spot coverage of news events, from the obligation imposed upon them under Section 11 of these Rules.

(b) Printed or Published Election Propaganda

The maximum size of print advertisements for each candidate, whether for a national or local elective positions, or party shall be, as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| In broadsheets | One fourth (1/4) page |
| In tabloids | One half (1/2) page |

Two or more candidates, political parties, or party-list organizations may cause the publication of coordinated print advertisements, featuring more than one candidate, political party, or party-list organization provided that the size and frequency limitations provided for in this paragraph shall apply to each candidate, political party, or party-list organization appearing, mentioned or promoted in such a coordinated advertisement.

The cost of coordinated print advertisements shall be pro-rated among each candidate, political party, or party-list organization appearing in each advertisement, and shall be reported by them accordingly.

Print advertisements, whether procured by purchase or given free of charge, shall not be published more than three (3) times a week per newspaper, magazine or other publication during the campaign period.

(c) Outdoor advertisement

The duration of outdoor advertisement that a candidate or party may use shall be, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| For Candidates/ Registered Political Parties for a National Elective Position | Not more than two (2) months of outdoor advertisement in a certain static or LED billboard whether by purchase or donation, provided that a candidate or party cannot have static or LED billboard advertisements within a radius of one (1) kilometer from each other. |
| For Candidates for a Local Elective Position | Not more than one (1) month of outdoor advertisements in either static or LED billboards whether by purchase or donation, provided that a candidate or party cannot have static or LED billboard advertisements within a radius of five hundred (500) meters from each other. |

Each bona fide candidate, whether national or local, for any elective position may utilize mobile outdoor advertisements in public utility vehicles provided that the dimension of the advertisement is consistent with the guidelines of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on transit advertisements.

(d) Common requirements and/or limitations:

Any printed or published, and broadcast election propaganda for or against a candidate or group of candidates to any public office shall bear and be identified by the reasonably legible or audible words "*political advertisement paid for*," followed by the true and correct name and address of the candidate or party for whose benefit the election propaganda was

printed or aired. It shall also bear, and be identified by, the reasonably legible, or audible words "*political advertisement paid by*," followed by the true and correct name and address of the payor. This rule shall also apply to online advertisements.

The notices required in the immediately preceding paragraph shall be considered reasonably legible on printed materials, if it complies with the following:

- (1) The notice must be of sufficient type size to be clearly readable by the reader of the information.

A notice in at least twelve (12)-point type size satisfies the requirement of this paragraph when it is used for signs, posters, flyers, newspapers, magazines, or other printed material that measure no more than two (2) feet by three (3) feet.

- (2) The notice must be contained in a printed box, set apart from the other contents of the sign, poster, flyer, or newspaper advertisement.
- (3) The notice must be printed with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed statement. A notice satisfies the color contrast requirement of this paragraph if it is printed in black text on a white background or if the degree of color contrast between the background and the text of the notice is no less than the color contrast between the background and the largest text used in the communication.

The notices required in the immediately preceding paragraph shall be considered reasonably legible on television, if it complies with the following:

- i. The notice must appear in letters equal to or greater than four (4) percent of the vertical picture height;
- ii. The notice must be visible for the duration of the broadcast advertisement; and
- iii. The notice must appear with a reasonable degree of color contrast from the background. A notice satisfies the color contrast requirement of this paragraph if it is displayed in black text on a white background or if the degree of color contrast between the background and the text of the notice is no less than the color contrast between the background and the largest type size used in the communication.

If the space for printed or published election propaganda is donated by the publishing firm, or the airtime for broadcast election propaganda is given free of charge by the radio, or television station or cable television, they shall bear and be identified by the reasonably legible or audible words "*printed free of charge*," or "*airtime for this broadcast was provided free of charge by*," respectively, followed by the true and correct name and address of the said publishing firm or broadcast entity. This rule shall also apply to online advertisements.

All broadcast and digital mass media entities shall preserve their broadcast logs or analogous records for a period of five (5) years from the date of broadcast for submission to the COMELEC whenever required.

Certified true copies of broadcast logs, certificates of performance, and certificates of acceptance, or other analogous record shall be submitted, as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------|
| Candidates for National Positions | 1st Report | 3 weeks after start of campaign period | 05 March 2025 |
| | 2nd Report | 3 weeks after 1st filing week | 26 March 2025 |
| | 3rd Report | 1 week before election day | 05 May 2025 |
| | Last Report | Election week | 16 May 2025 |
| Candidates for Local Positions | 1st Report | 1 week after the start of campaign period | 04 April 2025 |
| | 2nd Report | 1 week after 1st filing week | 11 April 2025 |
| | 3rd Report | Election week | 12 May 2025 |
| | Last Report | 1 week after election day | 19 May 2025 |

For subsequent elections, the schedule for the submission of reports shall be prescribed by the COMELEC.

SECTION 12. Written Acceptance of Election Propaganda and/or Political Advertisements. -Election propaganda materials donated or contributed by any person to a candidate shall not be printed, published or broadcasted, or exhibited, unless they are accompanied by the written acceptance by said candidate or party, through the party treasurer.

Such written acceptance of the donated election propaganda materials must be personal to the candidate or party treasurer, and cannot be delegated to their duly authorized representatives designated to receive donations or contributions.

SECTION 13. Fair and Accurate Reporting. - All members of the news media, television, radio, print, or online, shall scrupulously report the news, taking care not to suppress essential facts or distort the truth by omission or improper emphasis. They shall recognize the duty to air the other side and the duty to correct substantive errors promptly and without prejudice to the right of said broadcast entities to air accounts of significant news or newsworthy events and views on matters of public interest.

Any person who, for purposes of obstructing the performance of the foregoing mandates, has committed violence against any member of the news media, television, radio, print, or online, such as torture, physical harm, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, intimidation, harassment, threat, and other analogous forms of violence, shall be liable for an election offense.

SECTION 14. Prohibition Against Suspension or Other Actions on the Franchise. - No franchise or permit to operate a radio or television station shall be granted or issued, suspended, or cancelled during the election period.

SECTION 15. Affirmative Action by the COMELEC. - The COMELEC shall procure print space and airtime as follows:

(a) Print Space

The COMELEC, through the EID, shall procure print space upon payment of just compensation from at least three (3) national newspapers of general circulation which shall be utilized by COMELEC to announce equally and impartially the candidacies of persons/party-list groups running for national office on three different calendar days, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 st day | Within the first week of the campaign period |
| 2 nd day | Within the fifth week of the campaign period |
| 3 rd day | Within the tenth week of the campaign period |

(b) Airtime

The COMELEC, through the EID, shall also procure free airtime from at least three (3) national television networks and three (3) national radio networks which shall be utilized by COMELEC to announce equally and impartially the candidacies of persons/party-list groups running for national office on three different calendar days, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 st day | Within the first week of the campaign period |
| 2 nd day | Within the fifth week of the campaign period |
| 3 rd day | Within the tenth week of the campaign period |

(c) E-campaign platform

The COMELEC, through the EID, shall provide a platform for free livestreaming of campaign activities and/or lawful election propaganda of national candidates/party-list groups. To ensure equal and impartial of airtime in the e-campaign platform, the EID shall issue instructions to national candidates/party-list groups on the availment and usage thereof.

SECTION 16. Space and Time for COMELEC Information Dissemination. – The COMELEC shall furthermore procure print space and air time as follows:

(a) Print Space

The COMELEC, through the EID, upon payment of just compensation, shall procure print space in at least one (1) national newspaper of general circulation which shall be known as “COMELEC Space” to be utilized exclusively for public information dissemination on election-related concerns.

(b) Airtime

The COMELEC, through the EID, shall also procure airtime free of charge in at least one (1) major broadcasting station or entity which shall be known as “COMELEC Time” to be utilized exclusively for public information dissemination on election-related concerns.

SECTION 17. Right to Reply. - All registered parties and *bona fide* candidates shall have the right to reply to charges published or aired against them. The reply shall be given publicity by the newspaper, television, and/or radio station which first printed or aired the charges with the same prominence or in the same page or section, or in the same time slot as the first statement.

Registered parties and candidates may invoke the right to reply by submitting within a non-extendible period of thirty-six (36) hours from first broadcast or publication, a formal verified claim against the mass media entity to the COMELEC, through the appropriate Regional Election Director (RED), or in the case of the National Capital Region (NCR), the EID. The formal verified claim shall include a detailed enumeration of the circumstances and occurrences which warrant the invocation of the right of reply and must be accompanied by supporting evidence, such as a copy of the publication or recording of the television or radio broadcast, as the case may be. The claimant must likewise furnish a copy of the formal verified claim and its attachments to the mass media entity concerned prior to the filing of the claim with the COMELEC.

The COMELEC, through the appropriate RED or the EID, shall review the formal verified claim within thirty-six (36) hours from receipt thereof, and if circumstances warrant, endorse the same to the mass media entity involved. The mass media entity shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, submit its report to the RED or EID, as the case maybe, explaining the action it has taken to address the claim, furnishing a copy of the said report to the claimant.

Should the claimant insist that his/her right to reply was not addressed, he/she may file the appropriate petition and/or complaint, within two (2) days of inaction of the filed verified claim, before the Office of the Clerk of the Commission.

SECTION 18. Rates for Political Propaganda.⁵ - During the election period, media outlets shall give registered political parties and *bona fide* candidates a discounted rate for their election propaganda from the average of the published rates in the last three (3) calendar years prior to the election, as follows:

- (a) For television - Fifty percent (50%);
- (b) For radio - Forty percent (40%);
- (c) For print - Ten percent (10%).

In no case shall rates charged to registered political parties and *bona fide* candidates be higher than rates charged to non-political advertisers.

Media outlets may give discounts higher than the above-mentioned rates; provided, that the discount given to one candidate shall be the same given to other candidates for the same position.

For this purpose, media outlets shall submit the average published rates charged during the last three (3) years preceding the elections five (5) days before the start of the election period to the Political Finance and Affairs Department (PFAD).

It shall also submit a certification to the PFAD that the above discounted rates or higher discounted rates were applied in charging the political parties, party list groups and coalitions or *bona fide* candidates on their election propaganda.

SECTION 19. Regulation of Election Propaganda through Mass Media. - In all instances, the COMELEC shall supervise the use and employment of press, radio, online, and television facilities insofar as the placement of political advertisements is concerned to ensure that candidates are given equal opportunity under equal circumstances to make known their qualifications and

⁵ Republic Act No. 11207 entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REASONABLE RATES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAIR ELECTION ACT". COMELEC Resolution No. 10517.

their stand on public issues within the limits set forth in the Omnibus Election Code, the Fair Election Act, and these Rules.

SECTION 20. *Posting of Campaign Materials.* – Parties and candidates may post lawful campaign material in:

- (a) Authorized or designated common poster areas in public places, subject to the requirements and limitations set forth in the next following section; and
- (b) Private property, provided that the posting has the consent of the owner thereof and that Section 10 herein is complied with.

The posting of campaign materials in public places outside of the designated common poster areas, on private property without the consent of the owner, or in violation of Section 6 hereof, and in those places enumerated under Section 8 (f) hereof and the like, is prohibited. Persons posting the same shall be liable together with the candidates and other persons who caused the posting.

For this purpose, there is a presumption that the candidates and parties caused the posting of campaign materials outside the common poster areas if they do not remove the same within three (3) days from notice of the Election Officer of the city or municipality where the materials were posted or displayed.

Members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement agencies called upon by the Election Officer or other COMELEC officials may file the appropriate charges against the violators of this Section.

SECTION 21. *Common Poster Areas (CPA).* –Parties and independent candidates may, upon authority of the COMELEC, through the City or Municipal Election Officer concerned, construct common poster areas, at their expense, wherein they can post, display, or exhibit their election propaganda to announce or further their candidacy subject to the following requirements and/or limitations:

- (a) A common poster area should not be a post, a tree, the wall of a building or an existing public structure that is in active use, but a structure, the location and number of which are specified below, that is temporarily set up by candidates and parties for the exclusive purpose of displaying their campaign posters;
- (b) In no instance shall an Election Officer designate as common poster areas, any trees, plants, shrubs located along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises or in any other public grounds. In cases where parties and candidates still persist in displaying, posting, or exhibiting their

campaign or election propaganda on trees and plants, they shall be prosecuted for violation of these Rules, without prejudice to the institution of a criminal complaint for the violation of Republic Act No. 3571⁶;

(c) Each party and independent candidate, with prior consent from the COMELEC, may put up common poster areas in every barangay, subject to the following limitations:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 5,000 registered voters or less | 1 common poster area |
| For every increment of 5,000 registered voters, or a fraction thereof, thereafter | 1 additional common poster area |

(d) Such common poster areas shall be allowed by the Election Officer only in selected public places such as plazas, markets, barangay centers and the like, where posters may be readily seen or read, and with the heaviest pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic in the city or municipality;

(e) The Election Officer shall make, and post in his office, a list of the common poster areas in each city or legislative district in said city or municipality, indicating therein their exact locations, and furnish each political party or candidate copies of said list at the latter's expense, and also the Provincial Election Supervisor and the EID Director;

(f) The Election Officer shall comply with his obligations in the immediately preceding paragraph not later than five (5) days before the start of the campaign period and failure to do so shall make him liable for gross neglect of duty;

(g) The size of each common poster area for candidates shall not exceed the following dimensions:

- (1) *For political parties and party-list groups* - twelve (12) by sixteen (16) feet, or its equivalent but not exceeding a total area of 192 square feet; and
- (2) *For independent candidates* - four (4) by six (6) feet or its equivalent but not exceeding a total area of twenty-four (24) square feet.

(h) The sizes of individual posters that may be posted in each common poster area shall not exceed two (2) by three (3) feet. However, in case of space limitations, posters of candidates of political parties may be reduced to a uniform size to accommodate all candidates. This regulation is also violated by making single letters of names having the maximum size or

⁶ RA 3571, entitled "AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE CUTTING, DESTROYING OR INJURING OF PLANTED OR GROWING TREES, FLOWERING PLANTS AND SHRUBS OR PLANTS OF SCENIC VALUE ALONG PUBLIC ROADS, IN PLAZAS, PARKS, SCHOOL PREMISES OR IN ANY OTHER PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUND."

lesser and then putting them together to form a size exceeding two (2) by three (3) feet;

- (i) The common poster areas allocated to parties and independent candidates shall not be used by other parties and independent candidates even with the consent of the former.

Parties and independent candidates shall file their applications to construct common poster areas with the Office of the City/Municipal Election Officer concerned within five (5) days from the effectivity of these guidelines or on such other date as may be determined by the Commission; otherwise, they must accept the listing prepared by the Election Officer.

Within five (5) days after the elections and without need of notice, the parties and candidates who applied for the putting up of common poster areas shall tear down the same at their own expense and restore the site into its original condition. All other campaign materials outside of the common poster areas shall likewise be removed.

Non-performance of this obligation shall be deemed a violation of the law and regulation on the observance of common poster areas for which the candidate concerned shall be liable for an election offense;

- (j) The common poster areas put up for party-list groups, organizations and/or coalitions thereof shall be allocated at the ratio of one (1) common poster area for every thirty-two (32) party-list groups, organizations and/or coalitions thereof;
- (k) In case there are less than thirty-two (32) party-list groups, organizations and/or coalitions, applying to put up common poster areas, the Election Officer concerned shall reduce the size of the common poster area depending on the total number of applicants thereof, provided that each group is entitled to post one two (2) feet by three (3) feet poster;
- (l) In case there are more than thirty-two (32) party-list groups, organizations and/or coalitions applying to put up the common poster areas, the Election Officer concerned shall determine the appropriate number and size of common poster areas to equitably accommodate the total number of applicants, subject to the provisions of the immediately two (2) preceding paragraphs;
- (m) No lawful election propaganda materials shall be allowed outside the common poster areas except on private property with the consent of the owner or in such other places mentioned in these guidelines. Any violation hereof shall be punishable as an election offense;

- (n) In all cases, the parties shall agree among themselves how their individual posters in the common poster areas shall be placed. In case no agreement is reached, the Election Officer concerned shall determine said placement by drawing of lots;
- (o) The Election Officer shall act on all applications for common poster areas within three (3) days from receipt thereof. For this purpose, he/she shall determine whether the proposed common poster area sites are public places with heavy pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or business or commercial centers, or densely populated areas, and equitably and impartially allocate the sites to ensure maximum exposure of the lawful propaganda materials of all parties and independent candidates;
- (p) Any party or independent candidate aggrieved by the action of the Election Officer may appeal the same within two (2) days from receipt of the order of said Election Officer to:
 - (1) The Provincial Election Supervisors (PES); or
 - (2) The Regional Election Director (RED), in the case of the National Capital Region (NCR).
- (q) The PES or RED concerned shall decide the appeal within two (2) days from receipt thereof, furnishing copies of the decision to the parties concerned and to the Law Department of the COMELEC. The decision shall be final and executory.

SECTION 22. Establishment of Headquarters. – Every registered political party, sectoral organization or coalition participating in the party-list system or candidate may be allowed to establish a limited number of headquarters subject to the following limitations:

- (a) A registered party with national constituency and a national candidate may establish one (1) headquarters in each province or highly urbanized city;
- (b) A registered political party with regional constituency may establish one (1) headquarters in each province or highly urbanized city in the region;
- (c) A registered political party with provincial constituency and a provincial candidate may be allowed to establish one (1) headquarters in each municipality;

- (d) Congressional candidates may be allowed to establish one (1) headquarters in the legislative district they seek to represent. Should their legislative district be composed of several municipalities, they may be allowed to establish one (1) headquarters per municipality;
- (e) City candidates may be allowed to establish one (1) headquarters per councilor district;
- (f) Municipal candidates may be allowed to establish one (1) headquarters for the entire municipality; and
- (g) Lawful election propaganda may be displayed at headquarters subject to the limitations provided in Sec. 6 (g) and Section 24 hereof.

SECTION 23. *Submission of List of Location of Headquarters.* – All parties and candidates shall submit within five (5) days from their establishment, the list showing the specific locations and addresses of all their headquarters, to the following offices:

- (a) National parties and candidates – Law Department and EID
- (b) Regional political parties – Regional Election Director
- (c) Provincial parties and candidates – Provincial Election Supervisor
- (d) City and Municipal parties and candidates – Election Officer
- (e) Parties and Candidates in the NCR – Regional Election Director of NCR

The officials of the COMELEC in paragraphs b, c, and d to whom the lists of headquarters are submitted shall furnish copies thereof to the Law Department and the EID, within five (5) days from the receipt of the list.

SECTION 24. *Headquarters Signboard.* – Before the start of the campaign period, only one (1) signboard, not exceeding three (3) feet by eight (8) feet in size, identifying the place as the headquarters of the party or candidates is allowed to be displayed. Parties may put up the signboard announcing their headquarters not earlier than five (5) days before the start of the campaign period. Individual candidates may put up the signboard announcing their headquarters not earlier than the start of the campaign period. Only lawful election propaganda material may be displayed or posted therein and only during the campaign period.

SECTION 25. Prohibition on the Removal, Destruction, or Defacement of Lawful Election Propaganda. - During the campaign period, it is unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, take down or, in any manner, deface or tamper with, or prevent the distribution of any lawful election propaganda.

SECTION 26. Removal or Confiscation of Prohibited Propaganda Materials. - Any prohibited form of election propaganda shall be stopped, confiscated, removed, or taken down by COMELEC representatives, at the expense of the candidate or political party for whose apparent benefit the prohibited election propaganda materials have been produced, displayed, and disseminated.

Any person, party, association, government agency may likewise report to the COMELEC any prohibited form of election propaganda for confiscation, removal, and/or prevention of the distribution of any propaganda material on the ground that the same is illegal, as listed in these guidelines.

The COMELEC may, *motu proprio*, immediately order the removal and/or confiscation of any:

- (a) Prohibited propaganda materials;
- (b) Materials which contain statements or representations that are illegal;
- (c) Materials that do not comply with the mandatory disclosures or messages required by this Resolution;
- (d) Materials that are deemed to have violated intellectual property rights as determined by the IPOPHL.

SECTION 27. Creation of Task Force to Take Down and Remove Unlawful Election Materials. - There is hereby created a task force in each city and municipality composed of the Election Officer as Chairperson, the City or Provincial Prosecutor or any Prosecutor duly designated for the purpose as Vice Chairperson, and a representative from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as Members, to tear down and remove all unlawful election materials. For NCR, a representative from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shall also be designated as member. The Chairperson of the Task Force may, at his/her discretion, include other agencies or organizations in the Task Force.

The Task Force shall have the following duties and functions:

- (a) To take down and remove campaign propaganda materials posted in public places outside the common poster areas;
- (b) To take down and remove all prohibited forms of campaign materials wherever posted or displayed in public places;
- (c) To monitor and watch out for persons posting or distributing said unlawful election paraphernalia; and
- (d) To submit a report of said activities to the Office of the Regional Election Director (ORED).

The PNP/Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as deputized by the COMELEC, shall assist the Task Force by ensuring the security throughout the activity.

SECTION 28. Modes of removal or dismantling of prohibited forms of campaign materials. -

- (a) Simple abatement or the summary removal of illegal campaign materials clearly seen in prohibited locations such as those outside the common poster areas or in public places.
- (b) Punitive abatement or the removal of illegal campaign materials subject to Notice and preparatory to the filing of appropriate legal action.

The procedure for this form of abatement are as follows:

- (1) The Election Officers shall survey their respective areas of jurisdiction and document illegal campaign materials by taking photographs, indicating their location, date and time. The date and time shall be proven by a newspaper of the day, and there shall be at least one article prominently visible to authenticate the date when it was taken. The photos must be strategically taken showing the landmarks of the locations where the illegal campaign materials are posted.
- (2) The Election Officer shall immediately send the Notice to Remove to the candidates to their designated "address for Election Purposes" indicated in their Certificates of Candidacy. The Notice to Remove shall contain the following:

- i. Description of the illegal campaign materials;
- ii. Location where they were seen with landmarks;
- iii. Specific violation/s committed;
- iv. Instruction to remove the campaign material within seventy-two (72) hours with mention of the penalty in case of failure to comply;
- v. Signature of the Election Officer; and
- vi. A clear photo of the campaign material earlier documented shall be attached to the Notice for reference of the candidate. Seventy-two (72) hours shall be counted after receipt of the Notice by the candidate concerned or a person of sufficient age and discretion at the address indicated with his/her full name, signature and date of receipt of the copy, either by personal service or express mail.

A sample template of said Notice is attached hereto as Annex "A".

In case of failure to remove the same within seventy-two (72) hours from Notice, such candidate is presumed to be the owner or the person who caused such violation.

- (3) An Affidavit of Service shall be executed by the COMELEC staff who has served or mailed the same.
- (4) After seventy-two (72) hours, the Election Officer, in coordination with partners shall return to the place where the illegal campaign material is located to inspect the same. If the material is still there, he/she shall take a photo of it with the newspaper of the day, to authenticate the fact that it is still there despite the lapse of seventy-two (72) hours, after which it will be taken down in a manner that will preserve its evidentiary value. For purposes of proper identification of evidence, the following shall be written at the back thereto:
 - i. Name of the Candidate/s or Parties;
 - ii. Specific place where campaign posters were removed from;
 - iii. Date of removal;
 - iv. Nature of violation (oversized, placed outside the CPA, etc.);

- v. Names and signatures of witnesses;
- vi. Name of the Election Officer and his/her signature;

(5) The Election Officer shall prepare a Complaint-Affidavit or *Sinumpaang Salaysay* detailing the circumstances of the commission of the election offense with the following attachments:

- i. The original Notice to Remove (with attached photo/s) with proof of receipt;
- ii. Notarized Affidavit of Service;
- iii. A photo to show non-compliance to the Notice on the date of the removal after seventy-two (72) hours; and
- iv. The actual campaign material with the signatures of the Election Officer and witnesses therein.

For this purpose, all Regional Election Directors, Assistant Regional Election Directors, Regional Election Attorneys, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers who are members of the Philippine Bar are authorized to administer oath.

(6) Submit to the Law Department for evaluation and/or docketing.

(7) The Law Department, after evaluation and finding basis for probable cause, shall refer to the Regional Election Director for the conduct of a Preliminary Investigation.

(8) The Regional Election Director may designate an Investigating Officer who must be a member of the bar.

(9) The Investigating Officer shall conduct preliminary investigation by:

- i. Requiring respondent/s to submit verified Counter Affidavits with affidavits of witnesses;
- ii. Conduct of clarificatory hearing/s, if necessary, to ascertain factual issues; and
- iii. Submit the Findings/Recommendations in accordance with the periods required by the Law Department.

- (10) The ORED shall transmit to the Law Department the Findings and Recommendation of the Investigating Officer;
- (11) The Law Department shall review the Findings and Recommendation of the Investigating Officer and submit to the Commission En Banc its own recommendation; and
- (12) The Commission *En Banc* shall issue a resolution affirming, denying, and/or modifying the recommendation of the Law Department.

SECTION 29. Removal of Prohibited Propaganda Materials Before the Start of the Campaign Period. - All prohibited forms of election propaganda shall be immediately removed, or caused to be removed, by said candidate or party at least seventy-two (72) hours before the start of the campaign period.

The prohibited forms of propaganda contemplated in this Section include any names, images, logos, brands, insignias, initials, and other forms of identifiable graphical representations on any public structures or places as enumerated in Section 8 (f) of these guidelines placed by incumbent officials.

SECTION 30. Removal of Propaganda Materials After the Elections. - Within five (5) days after the elections and without need of notice, the candidates shall remove or cause to remove all their election propaganda at their expenses or for whose apparent benefit the election propaganda materials have been produced, displayed, and disseminated.

SECTION 31. Proper Disposal of Election Propaganda Confiscated, Removed or Taken Down by COMELEC and/or its Deputies. - All materials confiscated, removed, or taken down pursuant to this Resolution shall be disposed of in accordance with subsequent guidelines to be issued by the Commission.

SECTION 32. Election Surveys. - During the election period, any person, whether natural or juridical, candidate or organization may conduct an election survey. Should they decide to publish the said survey for public consumption, they must likewise publish the following information:

- (a) The name of the person, candidate, party or organization that commissioned, paid for, or subscribed to the survey;
- (b) The name of the person, polling firm or survey organization who conducted the survey;

- (c) The period during which the survey was conducted, the methodology used, including the number of individual respondents and the areas from which they were selected, and the specific questions asked;
- (d) The margin of error of the survey;
- (e) For each question where the margin of error is greater than that reported under paragraph (d), the margin of error for that question; and
- (f) A mailing address and contact information at which the sponsor can be reached to obtain a written report regarding the survey in accordance with the next succeeding paragraph.

The survey together with the raw data gathered to support its conclusions shall be available for inspection, copying and verification by the COMELEC. Any violation of this Section shall constitute an election offense.

SECTION 33. *Exit Polls.* - Exit polls may only be taken subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Pollster shall not conduct their surveys within thirty (30) meters from the voting center;
- (b) Pollsters shall wear distinctive clothing and prominently wear their identification cards issued by the organization they represent;
- (c) Pollsters shall inform the voters that they may refuse to answer;
- (d) The results of the exit polls may be announced after the closing of the polls on election day, and must identify the total number of respondents, and the places where they were taken. Said announcement shall state that the same is unofficial and does not represent a trend; and
- (e) The conduct of exit polls shall not block the ingress to and egress from the voting center of other voters, cause any traffic of motor vehicles, or cause the crowding of people.

SECTION 34. *Application for Permit to Hold Public Meetings, Rallies or Other Political Activities.* - All applications for permits to hold public meetings, rallies and other similar political activities shall be filed with the authorized city or municipal official who shall acknowledge thereof in writing. Immediately after its filing, the application shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the city or municipal hall or building.

The official before whom the application is filed shall submit to the Election Officer concerned on the first working day of each week the list of applications, if any, filed during the previous week and the action taken thereon.

SECTION 35. Action on Application for Permit. - Within three (3) days after the filing of an application for permit to hold public meetings, rallies or other political activities, the local authority concerned shall act in writing on said application. Any application not acted upon within three (3) days from the date of its filing shall be deemed approved.

In acting on the application, the approving official shall give all candidates and parties equal and fair opportunity as to date, time and place, to hold public political meetings or rallies. In the last week of the campaign period, all independent candidates and parties shall be entitled to hold at least one public meeting or rally, in the public plaza or place where public political meetings or rallies are usually held.

An application for permit shall be denied only on the ground that a prior written application by another candidate or party has been approved. Denial of any application may be appealed to the PES or to the RED, for cases in the National Capital Region, who shall decide the same within forty-eight (48) hours after the filing of the appeal, and shall give notice of the decision to the parties. The decision shall be final and executory.

SECTION 36. Prohibited Acts During Public Meetings. - It is unlawful for any candidate, party or any person to give or accept, free of charge, directly or indirectly, transportation, food and drinks, or anything of value during and within the five (5) hours before and after a public meeting, or to give or contribute, directly or indirectly, money or things of value for such purpose.

SECTION 37. E-rallies and Livestreams Allowed. - Any political party or any candidate, individually or jointly with other aspirants, may hold peaceful online political meetings, rallies or other similar activities during the campaign period. Such online political meetings, rallies, and similar activities are not covered by the limitations on broadcast advertising.

Live streaming on the candidates' social media platforms shall be considered a form of e-rally, subject to the following rules:

- (a) All e-rallies shall include a disclosure that identifies it as a political meeting or rally and provide the relevant date, time, and location information. For this purpose, a livestream on the candidate's social media platforms shall be considered a political meeting or rally.
- (b) Candidates may receive in-platform gifts and game currency but shall not be allowed to give gifts to livestream audiences, nor to run promotions and

campaigns that will award in-platform gifts or game currency to platform users and livestream audiences.

SECTION 38. Mass Media Columnist, Announcer or Personality Running for Public Office or is a Campaign Volunteer. - Any mass media columnist, commentator, announcer, or reporter who is a candidate for any elective public office, a party-list nominee, or is a campaign volunteer for or employed or retained in any capacity by any candidate or party shall be deemed resigned, if so required by their employer, or shall take a leave of absence from his/her work as such during the campaign period; Provided, that after he/she has filed his certificate of candidacy but before the campaign period, it shall be his/her obligation not to use his media work for premature election campaign or partisan political activity: Provided, finally, that any media practitioner who, while not himself a candidate, is an official of a political party or a member of the campaign staff of a candidate or party shall not use his/her time or space to favor any candidate or party.

SECTION 39. Deputization - The COMELEC hereby deputizes the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and enlists the assistance of Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP), to assist the Commission, in coordination with the EID, in the dissemination of these Rules.

The COMELEC hereby deputizes local government units (LGUs), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), DENR, DPWH, and MMDA to assist the Commission in removing and taking down of unlawful election propaganda materials without any partiality and to provide facilities and/or equipment necessary in takedown of illegal propaganda materials and perform such other duties and functions as the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

SECTION 40. Election Offense. - As stated in Section 13 of the RA 9006 or the Fair Election Act, violation of the said law and these implementing Rules and Regulations shall constitute an election offense punishable under Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations, whenever applicable.

Any aggrieved party may file a verified complaint for violation of these Rules with the COMELEC Law Department, or the Office of the Regional Election Director (ORED), Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES), or the Office of the Election Officer (OEO) where the alleged violation took place.

SECTION 41. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines. This Resolution supersedes all previous resolutions inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 42. Publication and Dissemination. - The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, post the resolution in the COMELEC website, and furnish copies thereof to all field offices of the COMELEC. This Resolution shall likewise be disseminated to government agencies deputized by the Commission to assist in the implementation of the Fair Election Act.

SO ORDERED.

GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
Chairman

SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner

MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner

AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner

REY E. BULAY
Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner

NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication on December 9, 2024.


CONSUELO B. DIOLA
Director IV
Office of the COMELEC Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02) 8527-2987 and email address at comsec@comelec.gov.ph.