



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

**GUIDELINES ON THE USE
OF ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE ELECTION
PROPAGANDA AND THE
PROHIBITION OF
UNLAWFUL CAMPAIGN
MATERIALS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE
MAY 12, 2025 NATIONAL
AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
AND BANGSAMORO
PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS.**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "GEORGE" and "ERWIN" on the first line, and "ERWIN M. GARCIA" on the second line.

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RESOLUTION No. 11111

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article IX-C of the 1987 Constitution empowers the Commission on Elections (Commission) to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election and deputize, with the concurrence of the President, law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the exclusive purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible elections;

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article IX-C of the Constitution further authorizes the Commission to supervise or regulate the enjoyment or utilization of all franchises or permits for the operation of media of communication or information during the election period;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Republic Act ("R.A.") No. 9006, otherwise known as the "Fair Election Act" allows election propaganda, whether on television, cable television, radio, newspapers or any other medium for all registered political parties, national, regional, sectoral parties or organizations participating under the party-list elections and for all *bona fide* candidates seeking national and local elective positions subject to the limitation on authorized expenses of candidates and political parties, observance of truth in advertising and to the supervision and regulation by the Commission;

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the same Act empowers the Commission to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation thereof and to file a complaint for an election offense for the violation of the said Act and its rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, the Commission, through COMELEC Resolution No. 11086, promulgated the rules and regulations implementing R.A. No. 9006 in connection with the 12 May 2025 National and Local Elections and Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections, which provide for the requirements and/or limitations on the use of election propaganda;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the State policy to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature pursuant to Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, the Commission encourages parties and candidates to use recyclable and environmentally friendly materials and avoid those that contain hazardous chemicals and substances in the production of their campaign and election propaganda as provided in Section 7 of the COMELEC Resolution No. 11086.

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to various international treaties and agreements aimed at promoting sustainable development including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, and Goal 13 on Climate Action;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has enacted and continues to implement national environmental laws, including R.A. No. 9003 (the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), R.A. No. 9729 (Climate Change Act of 2009), R.A. No. 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999) and R.A. 3571¹;

WHEREAS, globally, the production and use of plastic have significant effects on the environment including the destruction of the marine ecosystem, animals and human lives;

WHEREAS, from campaign activities to voting, the environmental impact of electoral processes extends far beyond the ballot box, encompassing resource depletion, pollution, and waste generation;

WHEREAS, the environmental impact of the electoral exercise has often been overlooked, hence, there is a need to urgently address the environmental toll of elections and explore alternative and more sustainable options;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *General Welfare Clause* under the Local Government Code of 1991, every local government unit shall exercise its powers which are essential for the good and welfare of its jurisdiction and its inhabitants.

WHEREAS, the Commission *En Banc*, through Minute Resolution No. 24-0384, approved the creation of the Committee on Environmentally

¹ 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 any Other Public Ground.

Sustainable Elections, tasked with studying and proposing measures to minimize the environmental impact of **election-related** activities, such as campaign rallies, sorties, and the production, use, and eventual disposal of campaign materials;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Fair Election Act, R.A. Nos. 6646, 7166, and other related laws, has RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to promulgate the following Guidelines on the use of environmentally sustainable election propaganda in connection with the 2025 National and Local Elections and the Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections.

ARTICLE I

THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ELECTIONS

Section 1. Creation of the Committee. – The Commission *En Banc* approved the creation of the Committee on Environmentally Sustainable Elections (“CESE”).

Section 2. Composition and Organizational Structure. – The CESE shall be composed of the following:

- a. Commissioner-in-Charge;
- b. Executive Director as Chairperson;
- c. Director IV, Standards and Innovation Office as Vice-Chairperson;
- d. Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Law Department, Education and Information Department (“EID”), and Election and Barangay Affairs Department as Members; and

- e. Other members are composed of relevant national government agencies, civic organizations, and election stakeholders, consisting of the following:
 - i. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
 - ii. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
 - iii. National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC);
 - iv. Philippine National Police (PNP);
 - v. Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
 - vi. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
 - vii. Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
 - viii. Accredited Citizens' Arms of the Commission; and
 - ix. Other government agencies and election stakeholders as may be deputized by the Commission.

The members of the committee shall render the necessary support and assistance not only on the election day, but also during the pre-election and post-election periods, in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Committee shall be assisted by a Secretariat composed of personnel of the Commission as may be designated by the Vice-Chairperson.

Section 3. *Implementing Arm.* – The CESE, with the assistance of the deputized law enforcement agencies and relevant government instrumentalities, shall be tasked to implement and enforce these Guidelines, in cooperation with accredited citizens' arms and partner organizations of the Commission.

Section 4. *Powers and Functions of the Committee.* – The CESE shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate, in coordination with the government agency members, civil society organizations, accredited citizens' arms, and other stakeholders, measures that will minimize the environmental impact of campaign activities, and the production and proper disposal of campaign materials;

- b. Recommend to the Commission *En Banc* the deputation of government agencies, instrumentalities, and partnership with other civic society stakeholders for the purpose of adopting environmentally sustainable election practices;
- c. Ensure inter-agency convergence and close coordination with local governments in the implementation of these Guidelines;
- d. Encourage private sectors, civic society organizations, and other stakeholders to participate in the implementation of these Guidelines and in the programs and activities of the CESE towards greening the elections;
- e. Whenever necessary, issue supplemental guidelines, protocols, or policies in furtherance of these Guidelines;
- f. Evaluate and modify existing policies, or define and recommend to the Commission *En Banc* the enhancement of policies pertaining to more sustainable elections;
- g. Develop strategic communication, advocacy, and collaborative plans as well as capacity-building measures to engage the public in information gathering and dissemination on environmentally sustainable practices;
- h. Gather information and enter into data-sharing agreements in order to monitor and evaluate the use of environmentally sustainable materials during election;
- i. Perform such other powers and duties as may be directed to it by the Commission *En Banc*.

Section 5. *The Department of Environment and Natural Resources.* – The DENR is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Conduct investigation of violations in connection with the failure of candidates and parties to perform their duties pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices, and prosecute the same pursuant to its jurisdiction;

- c. Coordinate with law enforcement and other government agencies as well as private institutions for the necessary prosecution of violations and non-compliance pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- d. Monitoring of all cases pertaining to non-environmentally acceptable practices in connection with the election, as filed before its National, Regional, Provincial, and other field/local offices;
- e. Upon the request of the CESE, submit a report and data on the use of environmentally sustainable materials during the elections, other compliance under these Guidelines, and complaints in connection therewith filed before its offices;
- f. Provide and recommend effective measures to better improve the enforcement of the provisions of the implementing rules and regulations of the Fair Election Act and these Guidelines; and
- g. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 6. *The Department of the Interior and Local Government, Duties and Functions.* - The DILG is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices in all local government units (LGUs);
- b. Ensure the conduct of investigation by the LGUs of offenses pertaining to non-environmentally sustainable practices, in violation of their respective local ordinances, and the prosecution of the same pursuant to their jurisdiction;
- c. Upon the request of the CESE, submit a report and data on the use of environmentally sustainable materials during the elections, complaints filed in relation thereto, and actions undertaken by LGUs concerning violations of ordinances related thereto within their jurisdiction;

- d. Encourage active participation among the LGUs by establishing mechanism for rewards and recognition;
- e. Provide and recommend effective measures to better improve the enforcement of the provisions of the implementing rules and regulations of the Fair Election Act and these Guidelines; and
- f. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 7. *The National Solid Waste Management Commission.* – The NSWMC is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Assist in the monitoring of all cases pertaining to non-environmentally acceptable practices in connection with the election;
- c. Upon the request of the CESE, submit a report and data on solid waste management and the use of non-environmentally acceptable products during elections;
- d. Provide and recommend effective measures to better improve solid waste management practices during elections;
- e. Assist the Commission and LGUs in developing and implementing programs to assist in the identification of markets for materials that are diverted from disposal facilities through re-use, recycling, and composting, and other environment-friendly methods;
- f. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 8. *The Philippine National Police, Duties and Functions.* - The PNP is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Carry out case build-up by gathering evidence that may aid in the prosecution of individuals who are suspected of committing offenses in violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the elections;
- c. Assist the Commission, other relevant government agencies, and local government units in the investigation and prosecution of offenses in violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the election, by providing and preserving evidence relevant thereto;
- d. Deploy its personnel for monitoring and investigation of incidents of non-environmentally acceptable practices during the elections; and
- e. Take down and confiscate prohibited propaganda materials and/or those that do not comply with mandatory disclosures or messages required under COMELEC Resolution No. 11086;
- f. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 9. *The Metro Manila Development Authority.* - The MMDA is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Gather sufficient data and evidence necessary for the prosecution of offenses in violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the elections;
- c. Identify, report, and take the necessary and appropriate action against the use of prohibited materials during the elections;

- d. Coordinate with the Commission for the conduct of comprehensive training for all its personnel for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and these Guidelines, including the identification of acts constituting violations thereof, as well as the techniques and manner of gathering evidence;
- e. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 10. *The Department of Public Works and Highways.* - The DPWH is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Gather sufficient data and evidence necessary for the prosecution of offenses in violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the elections;
- c. Identify, report, and take the necessary and appropriate action against the use of prohibited materials during the elections;
- d. Assist in the taking down and confiscation of prohibited propaganda materials and/or those that do not comply with mandatory disclosures or messages required under COMELEC Resolution No. 11086;
- e. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 11. *The Bureau of Fire Protection.* - The BFP is hereby deputized to perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Gather sufficient data and evidence necessary for the prosecution of offenses in violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the elections;
- c. Identify, report, and take the necessary and appropriate action against the use of prohibited materials during the elections;
- d. Assist in the taking down and confiscation of prohibited propaganda materials and/or those that do not comply with mandatory disclosures or messages required under COMELEC Resolution No. 11086;
- e. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

SECTION 12. *Accredited Citizens' Arms of the Commission, Duties and Functions.* - The Accredited Citizens' Arms of the Commission shall perform the following duties and functions:

- a. Assist the Commission in its information campaign pertaining to environmentally sustainable practices;
- b. Assist the Commission, other relevant agencies of the government, and local government units, in the case build-up stage of investigation by gathering pieces of evidence that may be necessary and relevant to the case involving violations of these Guidelines and other environmental laws and regulations;
- c. To provide legal assistance to complainants and witnesses of offenses involving violation of environmental laws and regulations in connection with the elections by addressing inquiries;
- d. Assist in the management and administration of reports and complaints filed pursuant to the implementing rules and regulations of the Fair Election Act and these Guidelines;
- e. Upon the request of the CESE, submit a report and data on the use of environmentally sustainable materials during the

elections and other acts of compliance and non-compliance with these Guidelines;

- f. Render any other assistance that may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Fair Election Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other relevant environmental laws and resolutions.

ARTICLE II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. ***Campaign period*** shall refer to the period from 11 February 2025 to 10 May 2025 for Candidates for Senator and Party-List groups participating in the party-list system of representation, and from 28 March 2025 to 10 May 2025 for Candidates for Members of the House of Representatives and parliamentary, regional, provincial, city and municipal officials for purposes of 12 May 2025 National and Local Elections (2025 NLE).
2. ***Candidate*** shall refer 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.

3. ***Election campaign*** refers to an act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office, and shall include any of the following:

- a. 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;
- b. Creating any social media platform, user groups, or community pages, for the purpose of conducting campaigns or related partisan political activity;
- c. 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;
- d. Making speeches, announcements, or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate for public office;
- e. Publishing, displaying, or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or
- f. Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges, or support for or against any candidate.

4. "*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, it 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.

It 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.

5. "*Environmentally acceptable*" refers to the quality of being reusable, biodegradable or compostable, recyclable, and not toxic or hazardous to the environment, as defined under R.A. No. 9003 and its implementing rules and regulations.
6. "*Hazardous substances*" shall refer to any substance which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may:
 - a. cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or
 - b. pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.
7. "*Natural Fabric*" refers to cloth or textile made from natural fibers like cotton, hemp, bamboo, coco, or pineapple fibers, and other plant-based materials that are biodegradable, etc.
8. "*Party*" refers to either a political party, whether a national or sectoral party, or a coalition of parties, and party-list organizations duly registered/accredited with the COMELEC.
9. "*Person*" includes an individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation, and any other organization or group of persons.
10. "*Plastics*" refers to polymetric materials that are capable of being molded or shaped by application of heat or pressure.
11. "*Recyclable material*" refers to any waste material retrieved from the waste stream and free from contamination that can still be converted into suitable beneficial use or for other purposes, including, but not limited to, newspaper, ferrous scrap metal, non-ferrous scrap metal, used oil, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass, office paper, tin cans

and other similar materials, as defined under R.A. No. 9003 and its implementing rules and regulations.

12. "*Recycled material*" refers to post-consumer material that has been recycled and returned to the economy, as defined under R.A. No. 9003 and its implementing rules and regulations.
13. "*Recycling*" refers to the treating of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original product may lose their identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services: *Provided*, That the collection, segregation, and re-use of previously used packaging material shall be deemed recycling for purposes of these Guidelines.
14. "*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 Guidelines, video-sharing sites that allow users to post comments on individual entries shall be considered as falling within the broad category of "social media."
15. "*Social Media Post*" refers to any text, audio, or graphic content - or any combination thereof - published online using a social media account.

ARTICLE III **ELECTION PROPAGANDA**

Section 1. *Lawful Election Propaganda.* - Only those election propaganda specified under COMELEC Resolution No. 11086 shall be allowed during the elections, without prejudice to the authority granted by the Commission to use other forms of election propaganda

Section 2. Prohibited Election Propaganda. - Election propaganda in the form of posters or standing displays ("standees") that are not made of cloth, paper, cardboard, or any recyclable materials, as expressly provided under Section 6(c) of COMELEC Resolution No. 11086, shall not be allowed.

Single-use plastics, as well as styrofores and other flex, non-biodegradable materials and hazardous substances used in election campaign, services or events, prohibited under applicable laws, rules, and relevant issuances, including, but not limited to, those prohibited under ordinances and resolutions issued by local government units shall also be prohibited.

As for the other election propaganda enumerated in Section 6 of said Resolution, the Commission encourages parties and candidates to use recyclable and environmentally friendly materials and avoid those that contain hazardous chemicals and substances in the production of their campaign and election propaganda.

Section 3. Criteria in Granting Authority to Use Other Election Propaganda. - In the determination of whether or not to grant the authority to use other forms of election propaganda not covered by those enumerated in Section 6 of COMELEC Resolution No. 11086 and not otherwise prohibited by law, the Commission shall be led by these Guidelines and shall take into consideration the environmental sustainability of the propaganda to be authorized.

Section 4. Recommended Election Campaign Materials. - Candidates and parties are encouraged to use the following environmentally acceptable election propaganda:

- a. Reusable materials such as food and beverage containers;
- b. Energy-efficient lighting and sound system during rallies;
- c. Banners that are biodegradable or made with reusable materials;
- d. Electric Vehicle or Hybrid-Electric Vehicle for motorcades, subject to limitations set under the law or COMELEC rules and regulations;
- e. LED Billboards and other digital platforms;
- f. Other materials with sustainable local alternatives such as natural fabrics, recycled paper, and compostable plastics.

Section 5. Areas Where Campaign Materials are Prohibited to be Posted. – The posting of campaign materials in public places outside of the designated common poster areas such as streets, bridges, public structures or buildings, trees, electric posts or wires, schools, shrines, main thoroughfares and the like is prohibited. Persons posting the same shall be liable together with the candidates and other persons who caused the posting. Likewise, posting on private property without the consent of the owner shall not be allowed.

In addition, posting of campaign materials on 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 ground, which shall cause destruction or injury thereto, shall be strictly prohibited.

Section 6. Local Organizations. - In view of the objectives of the CESE to improve waste management, reduce and/or eliminate waste, and ensure that resources are circulated within the economy, with the end goal of minimizing environmental risks and degradation, candidates and parties are hereby enjoined to properly dispose of their recyclable campaign materials.

For this purpose, those intending to dispose of their recyclable campaign materials may reach out to the Ecowaste Coalition, which work closely with local organizations in the country that promote sustainability and create systemic solutions towards a circular economy through their recycling programs and facilities.

ARTICLE IV

DETERRENCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 1. Information Campaign. - The EID, in coordination with all member-agencies, shall formulate comprehensive policies and programs of information to promote awareness of environmentally sustainable practices, to provide information about the programs of CESE, and to apprise the public on the use of environmentally friendly materials.

For this purpose, the EID shall ensure that materials for publication in all forms of media platforms are consistent with the ends sought be achieved by these Guidelines.

Section 2. Procedures for Handling Reports and Complaints on the use of prohibited election propaganda. -

- a. Reports or complaints and all supporting evidence relating to the use of prohibited election propaganda under these Guidelines shall be in writing and filed personally before the Office of the Election Officer (OEO) where the alleged prohibited propaganda materials were found, or via electronic mail at 2025nle.cese@comelec.gov.ph, or the CESE's Facebook account.
- b. Reports and complaints shall provide detailed information regarding the alleged prohibited propaganda, including but not limited to, the name of the candidate or party, the location where the materials were posted, and the type of materials used.

Upon receiving a complaint or report, or identifying through monitoring the use of prohibited propaganda materials under these Guidelines, the following shall be immediately undertaken in relation to the procedures as laid down in COMELEC Resolution No. 10186:

- 1. The Election Officer (EO) concerned shall survey their respective areas of jurisdiction where the alleged prohibited election materials are displayed or disseminated by taking photographs and indicating their location, date, and time;
- 2. After validating the complaint or report, the EO shall immediately issue a Notice to the alleged candidate or party, or for whose apparent benefit the prohibited materials were produced, displayed, or disseminated, directing the removal of these prohibited materials. The said Notice shall contain the following:
 - a) Description of the prohibited election propaganda;
 - b) The location where they were seen, along with identifiable landmarks;
 - c) Specific violation/s committed;

- d) Instructions to remove the prohibited materials within seventy-two (72) hours with the mention of penalty in case of failure to comply; and
- e) A clear photo of the prohibited materials shall be attached to the Notice.

3. In case of failure to remove the same within seventy-two (72) hours from Notice, such candidate or party is presumed to be the owner or has caused the said violation.
4. An Affidavit of Service shall be executed by the COMELEC Staff who had served or mailed the same;
5. After seventy-two (72) hours from Notice, the EO, in coordination with deputized agencies, shall return to the place where the prohibited campaign materials are located for inspection. Should the said materials remain despite issuance of Notice, the EO shall take photographs as evidence. Thereafter, these shall be taken down in accordance with these Guidelines and COMELEC Resolution No. 11086.
6. The EO shall prepare a Report detailing the circumstances of the commission of the violation under these Guidelines with the following attachments:
 - a) The Notice to Remove with proof of receipt;
 - b) The photo of the prohibited campaign materials;
 - c) Notarized Affidavit of Service;
 - d) Notarized Affidavit of Service;
 - e) A photo to show non-compliance with the Notice on the date of removal after seventy-two hours; and
 - f) The actual campaign material.
7. The CESE shall submit the Report to the Law Department for evaluation;

8. After evaluation and finding probable cause, the Law Department shall refer to the Regional Election Director (RED) for the conduct of Preliminary Investigation;
9. The RED may designate an Investigating Officer who must be a member of the bar;
10. The Investigating Officer shall conduct preliminary investigation by:
 - a) Requiring respondent/s to submit verified Counter Affidavit/s;
 - b) Conducting clarificatory hearing/s, if necessary, to ascertain factual issues; and
 - c) Submitting the Findings/Recommendations in accordance with the periods required by the Law Department.
11. The ORED shall transmit to the Law Department the Findings and Recommendation of the Investigating Officer;
12. The Law Department shall review the Findings and Recommendation of the Investigating Officer and submit to the Commission *En Banc* its own recommendation;
13. The Commission *En Banc* shall issue a Resolution affirming, denying, modifying, and/or amending the recommendation of the Law Department; and
14. In case of a possible violation of other laws, the case shall be referred to the relevant agencies for appropriate action.

Section 3. *Obligation to Tear Down and Remove Unlawful Election Materials.* - Any form of election propaganda making use of prohibited materials provided in these Guidelines shall, after due notice, be removed by candidates and parties for whose apparent benefit the prohibited election propaganda materials have been produced, displayed, and disseminated.

Any person, party, association, government agency may report to the Commission any prohibited form of election propaganda as listed in these Guidelines.

The Commission may, *motu proprio*, order the removal and/or confiscation of any prohibited propaganda material.

Section 4. *Conduct After the Election.* - Candidates and parties are hereby required to conduct post-election clean-up in accordance with COMELEC Resolution No. 11086. Further, they are encouraged to conduct activities for the purpose of carbon offsetting such as tree planting.

Section 5. *Disputable Presumption.* - The display of the name and/or image of a candidate or party in an election propaganda shall be a disputable presumption that it is owned by the candidate or party whose name and/or image is shown thereon; or that the said candidate or party consented to the posting of the same.

The non-removal of prohibited election propaganda under these Guidelines, after due notice, shall be deemed a positive consent, by the party or candidate notified, of the use or display of the election propaganda involved.

Section 6. *Sanctions.* - Any person, whether local official, political party, party-list, or candidate in the 2025 NLE, who commits any prohibited act, or who willfully, or through negligence, fails to comply with any provisions in these Guidelines, shall be subject to the sanctions provided under applicable laws, local ordinances, or COMELEC rules. Any aggrieved party may file a verified complaint for violation of these Guidelines with the COMELEC Law Department or with the local government unit concerned. In case of a possible violation of other laws such as, but not limited to, R.A No. 9003 (*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*), R.A. No. 9729 (*Climate Change Act of 2009*), R.A. 8749, (*Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999*), or R.A. 3571, the case shall be endorsed to the relevant agencies for appropriate action.

ARTICLE V

**TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE ON THE USE OF RECYCLABLE
AND ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS**

Section 1. Disclosure. – Candidates and parties are encouraged to disclose the fact of use of election propaganda that utilizes environmentally sustainable materials, and the specific components and processes used thereon.

Section 2. Method and Manner of Disclosure. – Disclosures are to be made in a clear and conspicuous manner, appearing on the face of the same election propaganda which makes use of environmentally sustainable materials, sufficiently giving notice to the public through textual descriptions.

Section 3. Reporting Procedure. – After the conduct of election, and within the same period for the filing of the Statement of Contributions and Expenditures (“SOCE”), candidates and parties may file with the Commission an inventory, under oath, indicating the list of environmentally sustainable materials used in their election campaign. Any person giving contribution to any candidate or party may also file the same report with the Commission.

The filing of the disclosure report may be done in person, with the office where the candidates and parties filed their Certificates of Candidacy, or via electronic mail, directly at the e-mail address of the CESE Secretariat (for consultation with ED).

ARTICLE VI

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Section 1. Establishing Mandatory Diversion. – The Operational Plan shall include an implementation schedule which shows that for the 2025 NLE and BPE, candidates and parties shall divert at least 50% of their election propaganda through the use of recyclable and eco-friendly

materials; *Provided*, That the 100% requirement shall be imposed on the 2028 National and Local Elections.

Section 2. Coordination with LGUs. – The CESE shall include in the Operational Plan a Framework outlining the programs and courses of actions that the Commission intends to undertake in coordination with local governments, including entering into Memorandum of Agreement or Undertaking in furtherance of the objectives set forth in these Guidelines.

Section 3. Recognition of Significant Contribution. – The CESE shall include in the Operational Plan a mechanism for the recognition of significant contribution as well as active involvement and participation in environmentally sustainable practices during the election, in order to ensure relevance and efficiency in achieving the objectives of these Guidelines.

ARTICLE VII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Applicability of the relevant election laws and resolutions of the Commission. – The provisions of the Fair Election Act, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 8436 as amended by Republic Act No. 9369, COMELEC Resolution No. 11086, and other relevant election laws and resolutions of the Commission, shall, as far as practicable or appropriate, be applicable to the implementation of these COMELEC Guidelines.

Section 2. Budgetary and Logistical Requirements. – The CESE shall submit to the Commission *En Banc* its proposed financial and human resources requirements, which shall be included in its operational plan, for the effective implementation of these Guidelines.

Section 3. Effectivity. – These Guidelines shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines. These Guidelines supersede all previous issuances inconsistent herewith.

Section 4. Publication and Dissemination. - The EID shall cause the publication of these Guidelines in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, post the same on the COMELEC website, and furnish copies thereof to all field offices of the COMELEC.

SO ORDERED.

GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
Chairman

AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner

REY E. BULAY
Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner

NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication on February 5, 2025.


CONSUELO B. DIOLA

Director IV

Office of the Commission Secretary

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