



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF PLACING BULUAN, MAGUINDANAO DEL SUR UNDER COMELEC CONTROL	GARCIA, George Erwin M.	Chairman
	FEROLINO, Aimee P.	Commissioner
	BULAY, Rey E.	Commissioner
	MACEDA, JR., Ernesto Ferdinand P.	Commissioner
	CELIS, Nelson J.	Commissioner
	TANGARO-CASINGAL, Maria Norina S.	Commissioner
	PIPO, Noli R.	Commissioner

x-----x Promulgated: April 15, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 11131

WHEREAS, according to Section 99 of COMELEC Resolution No. 11067, the Commission *En Banc* has the authority to place any political division, subdivision, unit or affected area under its immediate and direct control and supervision, to wit:

“SECTION 99. COMELEC Control. - When the peace and order situation in the area will affect the conduct of elections, the Commission En Banc may place any political division, subdivision, unit or area affected under its immediate and direct control and supervision. COMELEC Control includes:

- a. Immediate and direct control and supervision over national and local officials and employees. - The Commission shall take immediate and direct control and supervision over all national and local officials and employees required by law to perform duties and / or to comply with certain prohibitions relative to the conduct of the elections in the political division, subdivision, unit or area concerned.*
- b. Full control and supervision over all national and local law enforcement agencies. - The Commission shall exercise full control and supervision over all national and local law enforcement agencies as well as military officers for the purpose of ensuring the holding of free, peaceful, orderly, honest and credible elections in the political division, subdivision, unit or area concerned.*

The Commission may place certain areas in the country under COMELEC Control to address security threats, mitigate risks of violence or unrest, and uphold the integrity of the electoral process. Once declared, security measures are intensified,

including heightened surveillance, increased police presence, and the implementation of additional security protocols to deter and respond to potential security incidents.

In furtherance thereof, the AFP, PNP, and PCG shall ensure constant collaboration with the Commission through the CBFSC, concerned R/P/C/MJSCCs, other law enforcement agencies, concerned local government units, and other relevant stakeholders, as the case may be, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to any security concerns."

WHEREAS, Section 101 of COMELEC Resolution No. 11067 states that any political division, subdivision, unit or area may be placed under COMELEC Control on the ground of *"threats that tend to disrupt the holding of free, peaceful, honest, orderly and credible elections"*.

WHEREAS, the series of shooting incidents and violence in the Municipality of Buluan, Province of Maguindanao del Sur posed threats to the peaceful and orderly conduct of elections thereat;

WHEREAS, through its GSC RESOLUTION NO. 2025NLE-002, the Gun Ban and Security Concerns Committee recommended *"the declaration of the Municipality of Buluan, Province of Maguindanao del Sur under COMELEC Control, in order to prevent further violence and lawlessness"*.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other pertinent laws, **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to **DECLARE** that Municipality of Buluan, Province of Maguindanao del Sur, is now under COMELEC Control as provided under COMELEC Resolution No. 11067.

Sections 104, 105 and 106 of COMELEC Resolution 11067 on the roles of different government agencies shall be strictly enforced, to wit:

"SECTION 104. Role of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Finance, Bureau of Fire Protection, and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. - In addition to functions under duly issued resolutions of the Commission and / or agreements that may be subsequently entered into, the following agencies are hereby directed to:

a. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

- i. look into the existence of any armed group organized to commit, or which is committing or attempting to commit, acts of terrorism, or threats to intimidate or coerce any person to vote for or against a candidate; and*
- ii. suppress or prevent said acts of terrorism or threats that has been established.*

b. Department of Finance (DOF)

- i. comply with and enforce all orders and instructions of the Commission relative to the election duties and functions of its personnel;*

- ii. ensure that all provincial, city, and municipal treasurers remain in their present assignments and neither transferred, detailed, reassigned, whether temporary or permanently, to another province, city or municipality, except upon prior written authority of the Commission, nor allow them to go on leave of absence from office during the period starting two weeks before and two weeks after election day, except upon prior written approval of the Commission;
- iii. not designate temporary or casual employee as Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the Office of the Treasurer; and
- iv. perform such other duties and functions which the Commission may prescribe from time to time.

c. Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)

- i. conduct safety inspection for purposes of prevention and suppression of all destructive fires on voting centers/ polling places, and other places necessary for the conduct of elections;
- ii. investigate and/or confirm causes of destructive fires on voting centers/polling places, and other places necessary for the conduct of elections; and
- iii. appraise the Commission through the CBFSC in case such fires are not due to natural causes.

d. National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA)

- i. Appraise the Commission of intelligence on local and foreign situation; and
- ii. Extend its expertise for the proper determination of the existence of security threats which may affect the conduct of free, peaceful, orderly, honest and credible elections.

SECTION. 105. Role of the AFP, PNP, and PCG. - In addition to their roles as deputized agencies pursuant to duly issued resolutions of this Commission, the AFP, PNP, and PCG are hereby directed to immediately provide personnel, equipment, vehicles, mobility assets, and other transportation facilities as the Commission may require:

- a. Designation of AFP and PNP Personnel in Voting Centers/Polling Places.** - The AFP and/or PNP shall designate a sufficient number of personnel to adequately cover the security of every voting centers/ polling places, provided that they shall not be allowed to stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters from the polling place.

They shall be allowed only to enter the polling place when they are going to cast their votes and if there is an actual disturbance of the peace and order therein.

- b. Call by the Electoral Boards.** - The Electoral Board upon majority vote, if it deems necessary may make a call in writing, duly entered in the minutes, for the detail of a policeman or any peace officer for their protection or for the

protection of the election documents and paraphernalia, in which case, the said policeman or peace officer shall stay outside the polling place within a radius of thirty (30) meters near enough to be easily called by the Electoral Board at any time, but never at the door, and in no case shall the said policeman or peace officer hold any conversation with any voter or disturb or prevent or in any manner obstruct the free access of the voters to the polling place.

They shall be allowed to enter the polling place only in the following instances:

- i. when they are going to cast their votes; and
 - ii. when there is actual disturbance or disruption of peace and order, the AFP or PNP officials/personnel even without the written order of the Electoral Boards.
- c. **Establishment of Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs)** - The AFP, PNP, and PCG shall likewise establish their respective QRTs per region, province, city and municipality under the immediate and direct control supervision of their corresponding R/P/C/MJSCC, the composition and activation of which shall be based on their respective Standard Operating Procedures and Manuals of Operations.
- d. **Provision on Mobility Assets and Transportation Facilities** - The AFP, PNP, and PCG shall provide their mobility assets and transportation facilities to ensure smooth and safe delivery and retrieval of election paraphernalia, supplies, and poll workers.

SECTION 106. Role of the CBFSC and the R/P/C/MJSCCs and Effects of the Declaration of COMELEC Control. - In addition to existing functions under this Resolution and other duly issued resolutions of the Commission, the CBSC and the R/P/C/MJSCCs, upon declaration of a political division, subdivision, unit, or area as under COMELEC Control, are hereby mandated to exercise the following powers and duties:

- a. ensure the conduct of free, peaceful, orderly, honest and credible elections:
 - i. act as law enforcement arm of the Commission in effecting implementing its specific orders, rulings, resolutions and decisions; and
 - ii. adopt appropriate measures to safeguard the conduct of elections;
- b. exercise immediate and direct control and supervision over all national and local officials and employees required by law to perform election duties and/or to comply with certain prohibitions relative to the conduct of the elections:
 - i. supervise and control administrative activities and transactions of national government agencies and local government units in the areas under COMELEC Control relative to the performance of election duties or to the conduct of elections, and enforce therein strict compliance with the election prohibitions and, particularly on, but not limited to, the disbursement of public funds, the construction of public works, movements of government personnel and non-intervention of civil service officials and employees as well as police and military officers and personnel;
 - ii. relieve and reassign any appointive officer or employee who violates any election laws, or refuse or fails to comply with any of the Commission's

instructions, orders, decisions or rulings, or refuse and fails to comply with the his/her mandate functions; and

- iii. recommend and/or enjoin deputized government agencies, including those referred in the immediately preceding sections, to take appropriate action in order to comply with their mandated functions relative to the performance of election duties or to the conduct of elections, and to realize the objectives of placing the area under COMELEC Control;*
- c. exercise full control and supervision over all national and local law enforcement agencies as well as military officers for the purpose of ensuring the conduct of free, peaceful, orderly, honest and credible elections:*
 - i. oversee effective and necessary distribution, assignment and deployment of officers and personnel of the PNP as well as officers and men of the AFP and the PCG in the locality concerned, and place under its control their activities relative to the strict enforcement of the law on the firearms ban, security personnel of candidates and private citizens, the appointment or use of special policemen for election purposes and similar election prohibitions under the pertinent provisions of Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code and Sections 32, 33, and 34 of Republic Act No. 7166, among others;*
 - ii. augment the police and /or coast guard forces and assign additional military troops whenever necessary to quell any possible outbreak of violence and maintain peace and order in the locality concerned;*
 - iii. intensify the establishment and operation of COMELEC Checkpoints;*
 - iv. when necessary, substitute a whole unit of the police or coast guard force assigned in the locality concerned with another police or coast guard unit or with an adequate unit of the AFP; and*
 - v. relieve any police, coast guard, or military officer or personnel who violates any election law or fails to comply with any of the Commission's instructions, orders, decisions or rulings from the performance of their duties relating to electoral processes and the conduct of elections;*
- d. revoke any issued CAs or suspend the effectivity of all CAs in the area declared under COMELEC Control.*

Unless otherwise provided, the R/P/C/MJSCC of the area under COMELEC Control, headed by the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisor, or the Election Officer, shall be responsible in implementing the COMELEC Control therein.

The exercise by the R/P/C/MJSCCs of the powers and duties provided in items b.ii, civ, c.v, and d of this section shall be subject to the confirmation of the CBFSC.

All actions undertaken by the R/P/C/MJSCCs in the implementation of COMELEC Control are subject to the review of the CBFSC. The decisions and orders of the CBFSC in connection herewith shall be final and immediately executory, unless modified, reversed or revoked by the Commission En Banc."

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Let the Education and Information Department cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution. The Information Technology Department is likewise directed to post this Resolution in the official COMELEC website.

SO ORDERED.


GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
CQ00051495
Chairman


AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner


REY E. BULAY
Commissioner


ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner


NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner


MARIA NORINA S. TANGARO-CASINGAL
Commissioner


NOLI R. PIPO
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED by the Commission *En Banc* on **15 April 2025**


CONSUELO B. DIOLA
Director IV
Office of the Commission Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02)85272987; email address comsec@comelec.gov.ph.