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Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTDILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

www.dilg.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2023-105

TO

ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL

MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS, DILG REGIONAL AND FIELD OFFICERS, AND

OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT

DEPUTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs), AMONG OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ON THE REMOVAL OF UNLAWFUL ELECTION PROPAGANDA MATERIALS IN LINE WITH THE 2023 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND

SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS (BSKE)

DATE

JUL 28, 2023

Republic Act (RA) No. 11935, otherwise known as "AN ACT POSTPONING THE DECEMBER 2022 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", mandates the conduct of the Synchronized BSKE on the last Monday of October 2023.

In this connection, the Supreme Court recognizes the legal practicality and necessity of proceeding with the conduct of the BSKE on the last Monday of October 2023¹ (October 30, 2023).

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) promulgated Resolution No. 10924 on June 07, 2023, which provides for the "General Guidelines and Other Related Rules and Regulations for the October 30, 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) and All Succeeding BSKEs Thereafter."

Section 252 of COMELEC Resolution No. 10924 mandates that any prohibited form of election propaganda shall be stopped, confiscated, removed, destroyed, or torn down by COMELEC representatives, at the expense of the candidate for whose apparent benefit the prohibited election propaganda materials have been produced, displayed, and disseminated.

¹ GR No. 263590 (Macalintal v. COMELEC) and GR No. 263673 (Hidalgo, et al. v. COMELEC)

Also, Section 263 of the subject Resolution states that the COMELEC hereby deputizes the LGUs, DILG and other government agencies to assist the Commission in removing and tearing down of unlawful election propaganda materials without any partiality, to provide facilities and/or equipment necessary in tearing down of illegal propaganda materials and perform such other duties and functions as the Commission

In this regard, all Local Chief Executives are enjoined to perform the following:

- 1. Provide COMELEC with the necessary equipment that will be used to remove and/or tear unlawful election propaganda.
- Designate LGU personnel who shall assist the COMELEC/Election Officer concerned in removing unlawful election propaganda/materials. In the case of the barangay, the Punong Barangay may designate the Barangay Tanods who will provide the Commission with the necessary assistance.
- 3. Issue an Executive Order for the designation of the LGU personnel/Barangay Tanods and provide them with assistance that may be deemed necessary in the performance of their roles/functions.
- 4. Direct the designated LGU personnel/Barangay Tanods to collaborate and coordinate with the concerned Election Officer before the removal or tearing down of unlawful election propaganda.
- 5. Perform other functions, through the designated LGU personnel/Barangay Tanods, as may be prescribed by the Commission from time to time.

Further, all concerned are encouraged to immediately report to COMELEC any prohibited form of election propaganda for confiscation, removal destruction and/or prevention of the distribution of any illegal/unlawful propaganda materials.

For reference, the prohibited forms of election propaganda are enumerated in Section 240 of COMELEC Resolution No. 10924, pages 101-102, which can be accessed thru the link: https://comelec.gov.ph/?r=2023BSKE/Resolutions/res10924.

All DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers are directed to cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Circular within their respective jurisdiction.

For the information of and compliance by all concerned.

ATTY. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.

Secretary

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