

SENATE

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P.S. Resolution No. 758

RECEIVED

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE ALLEGED PARTISANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS'
MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL) THROUGH ITS SUPPOSED
INDIRECT ENDORSEMENT OF 1SAMBAYAN, AND THE SUPPOSED
CONNECTIONS OF NAMFREL WITH VOTE FOR US AND THE COMMISSION
ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC)**

WHEREAS, *Article IX, Section 1* of the *1987 Constitution* established the independence of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC);

WHEREAS, according to the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), it is a pioneer in election monitoring being accredited by the COMELEC to conduct the Operation Quick Count in twenty-one (21) electoral exercises. It is a non-partisan, nationwide volunteer funded neither by the government nor by any political party or partisan institution;

WHEREAS, 1SAMBAYAN is a coalition which aims to field a single slate of national candidates for the 2022 elections with the foremost qualification of a clear, upright stand against the current administration;

WHEREAS, the only information about Vote for Us is that it is a non-governmental organization. It only posts content on its Facebook page urging people to vote;

WHEREAS, in the online newspaper article, 'NAMFREL, 1 SAMBAYAN, Vote For Us, and COMELEC: What's the connection?', Rabadon (2021) discussed that the hostname of the IP address of the 1Sama Ako Application is namfrel-test-vm.teravibe.com;

WHEREAS, Rabadon (2021) further stated that upon checking one of the ports of the subject IP address, it redirected the author to the Vote For US website;

WHEREAS, Rabadon (2021) also reported that the contents of the Facebook page of Vote For Us were shared by COMELEC Aurora Province, NAMFREL, COMELEC Baguio, and COMELEC Marinduque;

WHEREAS, the online new article raised questions directed to the constitutionally mandated independence of COMELEC and the non-partisanship of election watchdogs such as NAMFREL;

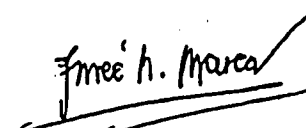
WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, NAMFREL released a statement that it has no links with 1SAMBAYAN. It explained that it engaged an independent third party applications development company for the project that uses its own test servers for various projects, which happens to include the 1SAMBAYAN application;

WHEREAS, in the online news article, 'A NAMFREL senior officer is 1Sambayan's IT provider?', Nieto (2021) pointed out that Mr. Fernando Contreras, a member of NAMFREL's National Council, is likewise the President and CEO of Teravibe, the alleged third-party server of the NAMFREL website and the 1Sambayan App;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure the independence of the COMELEC and that organizations seeking to be accredited as COMELEC's citizen's arm during elections are non-partisan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate that the appropriate Senate committee be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged partisanship of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) through its supposed indirect endorsement of 1SAMBAYAN, and the supposed connections of NAMFREL with Vote for Us and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS