


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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Senate

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SENATE

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S.B. No. 2817

(In substitution of S.B. Nos. 730, 857, 1158, 1384, and 1847)

Prepared by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and Peoples Participation; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance, with Senators Villanueva, Revilla, Jr., Marcos, and Dela Rosa as authors thereof

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMISSION
ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT
PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE", AS AMENDED,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*COMELEC Integrity*
2 *Act.*"

3 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State hereby affirms and recognizes the
4 independence of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) as guaranteed under Article
5 IX, Part A, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution. As such, the State shall ensure and
6 preserve its integrity and independence by providing suitable office space for its field
7 offices and a sufficient manpower complement.

1 SEC. 3. Section 53, Article VII, of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known
2 as the "Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines", as amended, is hereby amended
3 to read as follows:

4 "SECTION 53. Field offices of the Commission. – The Commission shall
5 have the following field offices, **WHOSE OFFICERS AND**
6 **EMPLOYEES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION IN**
7 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING,**
8 **POSITION CLASSIFICATION, AND COMPENSATION**
9 **STANDARDS:**

10 (1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director
11 and assisted by the Assistant Regional Director and such other
12 subordinate officers or employees as the Commission may appoint.

13 (2) Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election
14 Supervisor **FOR EACH PROVINCE** and assisted by ~~[such]~~ **AT LEAST**
15 **ONE (1) ELECTION ASSISTANT AND SUCH NUMBER OF**
16 **ASSISTANTS AND** other subordinate officers or employees as the
17 Commission may appoint.

18 (3) City/Municipal Election Office, headed by the City/Municipal
19 ~~[Registrar]~~ **ELECTION OFFICER FOR EACH CITY OR**
20 **MUNICIPALITY. IN CITIES HAVING MORE THAN ONE (1)**
21 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, EACH OF SUCH LEGISLATIVE**
22 **DISTRICTS SHALL HAVE AN ELECTION OFFICER. EACH**
23 **ELECTION OFFICER** ~~[who]~~ shall be assisted by **AT LEAST ONE (1)**
24 **ELECTION ASSISTANT AND SUCH NUMBER OF ASSISTANTS**
25 **AND SUBORDINATE OFFICERS OR** ~~[an election clerk and such~~
26 ~~other]~~ employees as the Commission may appoint.

1 The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the
2 implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings, or decisions
3 through the heads of its field offices.”

4 SEC. 4. A new Section 53-A is hereby inserted in Article VII of B.P. Blg. 881,
5 otherwise known as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines”, as amended, to
6 read as follows:

7 **“SECTION 53-A. AUTOMATIC CREATION OF POSITIONS OF**
8 **ELECTION OFFICERS. – WHENEVER NEW CITIES OR**
9 **MUNICIPALITIES ARE CREATED, THERE SHALL ALSO BE**
10 **AUTOMATICALLY CREATED FOR THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY,**
11 **POSITIONS OF ELECTION OFFICERS AND ELECTION**
12 **ASSISTANTS IN SUCH NUMBER AS DETERMINED PURSUANT**
13 **TO THE RATIO ESTABLISHED IN THE SUCCEEDING SECTION.”**

14 SEC. 5. A new Section 53-B is hereby inserted in Article VII of B.P. Blg. 881,
15 otherwise known as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines”, as amended, to
16 read as follows:

17 **“SECTION 53-B. RATIO OF ELECTION ASSISTANTS TO**
18 **REGISTERED VOTERS. – THERE SHALL BE A CORRESPONDING**
19 **NUMBER OF ELECTION ASSISTANT POSITIONS AT THE RATIO**
20 **OF ONE (1) ELECTION ASSISTANT FOR EVERY TWENTY**
21 **THOUSAND (20,000) REGISTERED VOTERS.”**

22 SEC. 6. A new Section 53-C is hereby inserted in Article VII of B.P. Blg. 881,
23 otherwise known as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines”, as amended, to
24 read as follows:

25 **“SECTION 53-C. NO PERSONNEL, EXCEPT THOSE MENTIONED**
26 **IN SECTION 53 HEREOF OR OTHER COMELEC PERSONNEL**

1 **EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION, SHALL BE**
2 **ASSIGNED, DESIGNATED, ENGAGED, OR DETAILED AT THE**
3 **COMMISSION’S FIELD OFFICES. ANY PERSON WHO CAUSES**
4 **THE ASSIGNMENT, DESIGNATION, ENGAGEMENT, OR DETAIL**
5 **OF ANY PERSONNEL AT THE COMMISSION’S FIELD OFFICES**
6 **IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN**
7 **ELECTION OFFENSE AND SHALL BE PUNISHED UNDER**
8 **SECTIONS 263 AND 264 OF THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE.”**

9 SEC. 7. Section 55, Article VII, of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known
10 as the “Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines”, as amended, is hereby amended
11 to read as follows:

12 ~~“SECTION 55. Office space. – [The local government concerned shall~~
13 ~~provide a suitable place for the office of the provincial election~~
14 ~~supervisor and his staff and the election registrar and his staff:~~
15 ~~Provided, That in case of failure of the local government concerned to~~
16 ~~provide such suitable place, the provincial election supervisor or the~~
17 ~~election registrar, as the case may be, upon prior authority of the~~
18 ~~Commission and notice to the local government concerned, may lease~~
19 ~~another place for office and the rentals thereof shall be chargeable to~~
20 ~~the funds of the local government concerned]~~ **THE COMMISSION**
21 **ON ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE, SEPARATE,**
22 **AND INDEPENDENT OFFICE FOR ITS FIELD OFFICERS AND**
23 **THEIR STAFF.”**

24 SEC. 8. *Transitory Provision.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this
25 Act, the Commission shall formulate a plan for the transfer of all of its field offices
26 from the facilities provided by local government units to the facilities owned or leased
27 by the Commission. The local government unit concerned shall continue to provide an
28 accessible place for the office of the provincial election supervisor and his staff and
29 the election officer and his staff until such time that the Commission on Elections has

1 provided the field office concerned with its own office, which in no case shall exceed
2 five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

3 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the
4 effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Elections and the Department of Budget and
5 Management shall adopt and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
6 effective implementation of this Act.

7 SEC. 10. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
8 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,
10 executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts
11 thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are
12 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
15 remain in force and effect.

16 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately following the
17 completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of
18 general circulation.

Approved,



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
 Intramuros, Manila
 General Services Division

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
 PROTOCOL AND LIAISON OFFICE
 RECEIVED
 7/1/23
 BY: JP TIME: 8:31

MEMORANDUM

For : **DIR. ELAIZA S. SABILE-DAVID**
 Protocol and Liaison Office

Subject : **Revised Cost Estimates for COMELEC Field Offices**

Date : **June 30, 2023**

This is to respectfully submitting the revised cost estimates for the transfer and construction/rental of COMELEC Field Offices in compliance to the request of the Senate Committee on Electoral Reform and People's Participation, to wit:

Particulars	Cost Estimate (Php)	Remarks
Construction of COMELEC Field Offices (<i>please see attached Work and Financial Plan for the Construction of COMELEC Field Office Buildings</i>)	18,904,320,477.84	5-year construction plan
Rental for 1-year period	Main Office 176,216,105.80	<i>based on the COMELEC Existing Lease of Contracts for Renewal for 2023)</i>
	Field Office- 1,903,800,000.00	please see the computation below
Transfer	Main Office- 675,000.00	Main Office – 7,500.00 per day x 90 days
	Field Office- 47,439,000.00	1,757 Comelec Field Offices x 1,800.00 per day x 15 days
TOTAL AMOUNT	21,032,450,583.64	

Rental for 1-year period

Office/Station	No. of Office	Minimum Proposed Office Floor Area (Sqm)	Estimated Cost of Rental @ Php500.00 per Sqm. (Php)	Total Estimated Cost of Rental per Year (Php)
Municipal Election Officer	1,489	150	111,675,000.00	1,340,100,000.00
City Election Officer	171	250	21,375,000.00	256,500,000.00



Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Elections
Intramuros, Manila

WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMELEC FIELD OFFICE BUILDINGS

Office/Station	No. of Office	Minimum Proposed Office Floor Area (Sqm)	Construction Cost Per Sqm (Php)	Estimated Total Cost of Construction Per Office (Php)	YEAR 1 (2024)		YEAR 2 (2025)		YEAR 3 (2026)		YEAR 4 (2027)		YEAR 5 (2028)		TOTAL AMOUNT
					Total No. of Office to be Constructed	Estimated Total Cost of Construction (Php)	Total No. of Office to be Constructed	Estimated Total Cost of Construction (Php) + 3% Inflation Rate	Total No. of Office to be Constructed	Estimated Total Cost of Construction (Php) + 6% Inflation Rate	Total No. of Office to be Constructed	Estimated Total Cost of Construction (Php) + 9% Inflation Rate	Total No. of Office to be Constructed	Estimated Total Cost of Construction (Php) + 12% Inflation Rate	
Municipal Election Officer	1,489	150	50,000.00	7,500,000.00	298	2,235,000,000.00	298	2,302,050,000.00	298	2,440,173,000.00	298	2,659,788,570.00	297	2,968,966,677.60	12,605,978,247.60
City Election Officer	171	250	60,000.00	15,000,000.00	30	450,000,000.00	30	463,500,000.00	37	605,949,000.00	37	660,484,410.00	37	739,742,539.20	2,919,675,949.20
Provincial Election Supervisor	82	350	60,000.00	21,000,000.00	17	357,000,000.00	17	367,710,000.00	16	366,844,800.00	16	399,860,832.00	16	447,844,131.84	1,939,259,763.84
Regional Election Director (TFO)	15		70,000.00	85,000,000.00	3	255,000,000.00	3	262,650,000.00	3	278,409,000.00	3	303,465,810.00	3	339,881,707.20	1,439,406,517.20
TOTAL					3,297,000,000.00	3,395,910,000.00	3,691,375,800.00	4,023,599,622.00	4,496,435,055.84	18,904,320,477.84					

- Note:**
- 1) Cost of lot not included.
 - 2) CEO & PES to be administered by Regional Bids and Awards Committee.
 - 3) RED (TFO) to be administered by Special Bids and Awards Committee - Infrastructure.
 - 4) RED (TFO) Estimated Total Cost of Construction Per Office was based on present Projects, i.e., Region 2 & Region 6.

Prepared by:
RODIE M. JIZMUNDO
Chief Administrative Officer
General Services Division, ASD

Noted by:
J. THADDUS HERNANDEZ
Director
Administrative Services Department

Provincial Election Supervisor	82	350	14,350,000.00	172,200,000.00
Regional Election Director (IFO)	15	1500	11,250,000.00	135,000,000.00
Total Amount				1,903,800,000.00

For information and appropriate action.

Thank you.


RODIL M. JIZMUNDO
 Chief Administrative Officer
 General Services Division, ASD

Noted by:


J. THADDEUS BERNAN
 Director IV
 Administrative Services Department

Cc: Executive Director Teopisto E. Elnas, Jr.