Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

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Promulgated: September 26, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 10425

The Commission on Elections (Comelec), by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Acts No. 6646, 10756, 11054, and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following "Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of the Plebiscite to Ratify Republic Act No. 11054 Otherwise Known As the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao".

Article I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Title. – These Rules shall be known and cited as the “Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of the Plebiscite to Ratify Republic Act No. 11054 Otherwise Known As the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”.

For brevity, the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” shall be referred to as the “Bangsamoro Organic Law”.

The political entity established under the “Bangsamoro Organic Law” known as the “Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” shall be referred to as the “Bangsamoro Autonomous Region”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of policy. - The plebiscite to ratify the “Organic Law for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao” is a non-partisan political activity.
Sec. 3. Territorial jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. – The territorial jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, subject to the plebiscite shall be composed of:

(a) The present geographical area known as the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao created under Republic Act No. 6734, as amended by Republic Act No. 9054;

(b) The municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in the province of Lanao del Norte;

(c) The following thirty-nine (39) barangays in the municipalities of Aleosan, Carmen, Kabacan, Midsayap, Pigkawayan, and Pikit in the province of North Cotabato:

1) Dungnan, Lower Mingading, and Tapodoc in the municipality of Aleosan (3);

2) Manarapan and Nasapian in the municipality of Carmen (2);

3) Nanga-an, Simbuhay, and Sanggadong in the municipality of Kabacan (3);

4) Damatulan, Kadigasan, Kadingilan, Kapinpilan, Kudarangan, Central Labas, Malingao, Mudseng, Nabulawan, Olandang, Sambulawan, and Tugal in the municipality of Midsayap (12);

5) Lower Bagaer, Balacayon, Buricain, Datu Binasing, Kadingilan, Matilac, Patot, and Lower Pangangkalan in the municipality of Pigkawayan (8);


(d) The City of Cotabato;

(e) The City of Isabela in the province of Basilan; and

(f) Subject to the approval of Comelec, all other contiguous areas where: (a) the local government unit thereof, by way of a resolution, asked for inclusion in the plebiscite; or (b) at least ten percent (10) of the registered voters in the local government unit, by way of a petition, asked for inclusion in the plebiscite.

Sec. 4. Date and places covered by the plebiscite. – The plebiscite shall be held on January 21, 2019, in the following places:

a) The present geographical area of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;

b) Isabela City in the province of Basilan;

c) Cotabato City;
d) The province of Lanao del Norte, except Iligan City;

e) The municipalities of Aleosan, Carmen, Kabacan, Midsayap, Pikit, and Piggawayan in the Province of North Cotabato; and

f) Subject to the approval of Comelec, all other areas contiguous to any of the areas described mentioned in Items a), b), c), d) and e) hereof, where: (a) the local government of such area, by way of a resolution, asked for inclusion in the plebiscite; or (b) at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters in a local government unit, by way of a petition, asked for inclusion in the plebiscite.

Sec. 5. Plebiscite and campaign periods. – The plebiscite period shall commence on December 07, 2018, and end on February 05, 2019.

The campaign period shall commence on December 07, 2018, and end at midnight of January 19, 2019.

Campaign shall not be allowed on the eve of plebiscite day (January 20, 2019), and on plebiscite day (January 21, 2019).

ARTICLE II

PETITION BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
FOR VOLUNTARY INCLUSION IN THE
JANUARY 21, 2019 PLEBISCITE

Sec. 1. Who may file. - Any local government that is contiguous to any of the area described in Section 2, (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), of Article III, of the “Bangsamoro Organic Law”, may file a petition for voluntary inclusion in the January 21, 2019 plebiscite to ratify said law.

Sec. 2. Form and content. - The petition must be in the form of a Sangguniang Resolution issued by the petitioning local government unit, approved by at least a majority of the Members thereof, bears the official seal of said local government unit, and prepared in nine (9) legible copies.

The petition shall state, among others: (1) the specific area(s) described in Section 2, (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e), Article III, of the “Bangsamoro Organic Law” to which the petitioning local government unit claims to be contiguous to; (2) the reason(s) for such claim; and (3) that there is no pending boundary dispute involving the petitioning local government unit;

Sec. 3. Documents to support the petition. – In addition to the petition, the following documents shall be submitted:

a) Original or certified true copy of a map showing the territorial boundaries of the petitioning local government unit, and the local government unit to which it is contiguous to; and

b) Original or certified true copy of a Certification from the Sangguniang Bayan/Sangguniang Panlungsod of the petitioning local government unit, that there is no pending boundary dispute involving the petitioning local government unit; and
c) Original or certified true copy of a Certification from the appropriate Sangguniang Panlalawigan that there is no boundary dispute involving the petitioning local government unit.

Sec. 4. When to file. - The petition shall be filed not later than one (1) month from the effectivity of this Resolution.

Sec. 5. Where to file. – The petition shall be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Comelec.

Sec. 6. How to file. – The petitioning local government unit through its Head or through a representative duly authorized for the purpose by an Ordinance of the Sanggunian of the petitioning local government unit shall personally file the petition.

Petitions filed through mail and/or not in accordance with these rules shall not be accepted or docketed. However, the Resolution/ Petition may be re-filed in accordance with these Rules on or before the lapse of the period provided in Section 4 of this Article.

The Clerk of the Comelec shall docket the case as EM (PLB) immediately upon determination of sufficiency of payment of filing fees and compliance with the jurisdictional requirements.

Sec. 7. Filing fee. – A filing of fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) and a legal research fee of One Hundred Pesos (Php100.00) shall be charged for the filing of the Petition. The filing fees shall be in the form of cash or postal money order and tendered to the Cash Division, Commission on Elections, Manila.

No petition shall be given due course by the Comelec unless the required filing fee have been paid.

Sec. 8. Notice of hearing. – Upon the filing of the petition, the Comelec en banc shall immediately set it for hearing and shall send notices to the petitioning local government unit. Notices shall also be sent to: (1) the local government unit identified by the petitioning local government unit as contiguous to it; (2) the local government unit that has jurisdiction over the petitioning local government unit; (2) the local government units that issued the certifications mentioned in Section 3, Items (b) and (c) of this Article;

Sec. 9. Publication of petition and notice of hearing. – On the day following the receipt of the Notice of Hearing, the petitioning local government unit shall cause the publication of the petition, together with the notice of hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation in the petitioning local government unit, the local government units that issued the certifications mentioned in Section 2, Items (b) and (c) hereof, as well as in the local government unit identified by the petitioning local government unit as contiguous to it;

Sec. 10. Opposition; time to file – Any interested party may file a verified petition to the petition on or before the date of the hearing.

Sec. 11. Summary proceedings. – The petition shall be heard summarily.

Sec. 12. Decision. – The Comelec shall decide the petition within fifteen (15) days from the time it was submitted for resolution, but not later than the last working day of October 2018.
ARTICLE III

PETITION BY AT LEAST
TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS
IN A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT FOR VOLUNTARY INCLUSION IN THE JANUARY 21, 2019 PLEBISCITE

Sec. 1. Who may initiate. - Any registered voter of a local government unit that is contiguous to any of the area described in Section 1 (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e), Article III, of the “Bangsamoro Organic Law”, may initiate the filing of a petition for the voluntary inclusion of the local government unit where such voter is registered, in the manner provided herein. Provided, that the petition is supported by at least ten (10%) percent of the registered voters in that local government unit.

The registered voter mentioned in this Section shall be referred to as the “initiating petitioner”, and the registered voters supporting the petition as “supporting petitioners”.

Sec. 2. Where to file. — In case the local government unit petitioned for inclusion is a barangay or a city or a municipality, the initiating petitioner shall file the petition with the Office of the Election Officer (OEO) where such petitioner is a registered voter. In the case of a province, the initiating petitioner shall file the petition with the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES) of the province having jurisdiction over the city or municipality where such petitioner is a registered voter.

Upon receipt of the petition, the Election Officer (EO) concerned shall immediately submit a report to the Committee on Bangsamoro Plebiscite (CBOP) established under Comelec Minute Resolution No. 18-0625 dated August 01, 2018, through the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (ODEDO), stating the name of the initiating petitioner, the local government unit being petitioned for inclusion, the local government unit claimed to be contiguous to, and the number of active registered voters in the barangay or city or municipality, or province, as the case may be.

Sec. 3. How to file. — The initiating petitioner shall personally file the petition, and sign the petition before the EO concerned in case the local government unit petitioned for inclusion is a city or municipality. In case the local government unit petitioned for inclusion is a province, the initiating petitioner shall file and sign the petition before the Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) concerned.

Sec. 4. Form of the petition and contents. — The petition shall be in writing and under oath, prepared in nine (9) legible copies, and contain the following:

a) The name, address, age, gender and signature, of the initiating petitioner. In case the initiating petitioner is an illiterate, a thumbmark will suffice, provided that the fact of illiteracy appears in petitioner’s registration records;

b) The name, address, age, gender and signature of each supporting petitioner. In case the supporting petitioner is an illiterate, a thumbmark will suffice, provided that the fact of illiteracy appears in petitioners’ registration records;
c) The barangay, municipality, city, legislative district and province to which the initiating and supporting petitioners belong;

d) That the initiating and supporting petitioner(s) are registered voters of the local government unit petitioned for inclusion in the January 21, 2019 plebiscite;

e) That, based on the result of the latest Election Registration Board (ERB) hearing in the local government unit petitioned for inclusion, the initiating and supporting petitioners constitute at least ten (10%) percent of the registered voters thereat;

f) That the initiating and supporting petitioners’ registration records are all on active status as of the date of the filing of the petition;

g) That the initiating petitioner commits that the supporting petitioners will, during the confirmation and affirmation period provided herein, appear before the Office of the Election Officer concerned to confirm their signatures, or thumbmarks in the case of illiterate voters, and to affirm that the initiating petitioner explained to them the purpose of the petition, and that they have read and understood the petition;

h) That the initiating petitioner explained to the supporting petitioners the purpose of the petition before the supporting petitioners signed the petition, or imprinted their thumbmarks in the case of illiterate voters;

The names, addresses, ages, genders and signatures or thumbmarks of the supporting petitioners shall be indicated on signature sheets in the form prescribed by the Comelec, arrange by barangay, city or municipality. Each page of the signature sheet shall also indicate the name of the local government unit petitioned to be included in the January 21, 2019 plebiscite, a brief narration of the reasons and justifications for the filing of the petition, and the barangay, municipality or city, and legislative district to which each of the petitioners belong.

Sec. 5. Authority to administer oath. - The EO or PES concerned is hereby authorized to administer the oath of the initiating petitioner, free of charge.

Sec. 6. Filing Fee. – A filing fee of fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00), and a legal research fee of One Hundred Pesos (Php100.00) shall be charged for the filing of the petition. The filing fee shall be tendered to the EO or PES concerned payable to the Cash Division, Comelec on Elections, Manila, in the form of manager’s check or postal money order. The EO or PES concerned shall immediately remit the same to the Cash Division.

No petition shall be given due course by the Comelec unless the required filing fee has been paid.

Sec. 7. Documents to support the petition. – In addition to the petition, the following documents shall be submitted:
a) Original or certified true copy of a map showing the territorial boundaries of the local government unit being petitioned, and the local government unit to which it is contiguous to; and

b) Original or certified true copy of a Certification from the Sangguniang Bayan/Sangguniang Panlungsod of the local government unit being petitioned, that there is no pending boundary dispute involving the said local government unit; and

c) Original or certified true copy of a Certification from the appropriate Sangguniang Panlalawigan that there is no boundary dispute involving the local government unit being petitioned for inclusion.

Sec. 8. Notice of schedule of confirmation and affirmation – Within three (3) days from receipt of the petition, the EO shall determine the schedule of the confirmation and affirmation period, and issue the Notice of the schedule, have the copy of the Notice personally served to the initiating petitioner, and posted on the bulletin board of the OEO and of the city hall or municipal hall.

In case the local government unit being petitioned is a province, the PES shall, within three (3) days from receipt of the petition, and in consultation with the EOs concerned, determine the schedule of the confirmation and affirmation period, and issue the Notice of the schedule. Upon determination of the schedule, have the copy of the Notice personally served to the initiating petitioner, and posted on the bulletin board of the OPES and of the provincial capitol, and direct all EOs in the province to post the Notice of Confirmation and Affirmation Schedule on the bulletin boards of their respective offices and of the city or municipal hall.

In all cases, the period for the confirmation and affirmation shall be scheduled not earlier than three (3) days from issuance of notice, and shall be conducted for a period not exceeding five (5) days.

Sec. 9. Procedure for confirmation and affirmation. – The confirmation and affirmation shall be done at the OEO concerned, during regular office hours.

The supporting petitioner shall appear before the EO to confirm his signature in the petition, and affirm that the initiating petitioner explained to him the purpose of the petition and that he has read and understood the said petition.

The EO shall establish the identity of the person presenting to be a supporting petitioner through the supporting petitioner’s photograph, signature contained in the Voter Registration System of the municipality or city, then proceed to determine whether the supporting petitioner is a registered voter of the city or municipality, and if so, determine the voter registration status of the supporting petitioner.

If the EO is satisfied that the person presenting himself is really the supporting petitioner, and a registered voter in the city or municipality with an active registration status, the EO shall ask the supporting petitioner to confirm his signature in the petition, and affirm that the initiating petitioner explained to him the purpose of the petition and that he has read and understood the said petition, and then sign in the appropriate space provided in the signature sheet indicating the date and time of confirmation and affirmation. The EO shall ratify the fact of confirmation and affirmation by signing in the appropriate space in the signature sheet indicating the date and time of ratification.
The same procedure shall be followed in the case of the other supporting petitioners.

At the end of the confirmation and affirmation period, or when all supporting petitioners have appeared before the EO, whichever comes first, the EO shall terminate the confirmation and affirmation, and proceed to count the total number of petitioners registered in the city/municipality with active registration records that confirmed having signed the petition and affirmed that the initiating petitioner explained to them the purpose of the petition, and that they have read and understood the petition, then determine whether the total number of supporting petitioners that confirmed and affirmed the petition constitutes at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voter in the city or municipality.

Sec. 10. Certification that petitioners constitute at least ten (10%) percent of the registered voters of the local government unit being petitioned for inclusion. – Within two (2) days from the termination of the confirmation and affirmation, the EO shall issue a Certification as to whether or not the total number of petitioners registered in the city/municipality with active registration records that confirmed having signed the petition and affirmed that the initiating petitioner explained the purpose of the petition and that they have read and understood the petition, constitutes at least ten (10%) percent of the registered voters of the local government unit being petitioned.

The EO shall submit the Certification, together with the eight (8) copies of the petition and the signature sheets, to the Clerk of the Comelec, within two (2) days from issuance of the Certification.

In case the local government unit being petitioned for inclusion is a province, the EO shall, within two (2) days from termination of the confirmation and affirmation, submit the Certification to the PES concerned. In turn the PES shall, within two (2) days from receipt of the Certifications coming from all EOs under his supervision, issue a Certification as whether or not the total number of petitioners registered in the province with active registration records that confirmed having signed the petition and affirmed that the initiating petitioner explained the purpose of the petition and that they have read and understood the petition, constitutes at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the province.

The PES shall submit his Certification, and that of the Certifications submitted by the EOs under his jurisdiction, together with eight (8) copies of the petition and signature sheets, to the Clerk of the Comelec.

Sec. 11. Notice of hearing. – Upon the filing of the petition, the Comelec en banc shall immediately set it for hearing and shall send notices to the initiating petitioner. Notices shall also be sent to: (1) the local government unit being petitioned for inclusion; (2) the local government unit that has jurisdiction over the local government unit being petitioned; and (3) the local government units that issued the certifications mentioned in Section 7, Items (b) and (c) of this Article;

Sec. 12. Opposition; time to file – Any interested party may file a verified petition to the petition on or before the date of the hearing;

Sec. 13. Summary proceedings. – The petition shall be heard summarily.

Sec. 14. Decision. – The Comelec shall decide the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date it was submitted for resolution, but not later than the last working day of October 2018.
ARTICLE IV
SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Sec. 1. On-going registration of voters. – The on-going registration of voters in the areas covered by the plebiscite, except Marawi City, shall continue until September 29, 2018. For purposes of the plebiscite, however, the ERB hearings in the said areas are hereby reset to October 09, 2018. Consequently, the last day for the EOs concerned to post the notice of ERB hearings and the list of applicants, is hereby moved to October 03, 2018, and the last day to file opposition to the applications is moved to October 09, 2018.

Sec. 2. Special registration teams. – In addition to the on-going registration activities, special registration teams in selected areas covered by the plebiscite shall conduct special registration thereat on dates and in the manner under Comelec Minute Resolution No. 18-0707 dated August 29, 2018.

Sec. 3. Special registration of voters in Marawi City. – A special registration of voters in Marawi City shall be conducted from October 1-15, 2018. For the purpose, the ERB of Marawi City, shall hear the applications filed during the October 1-15, 2018 special registration, on October 25, 2018. Consequently, the last day for the EO of Marawi City to post the notice of hearing, and the list of applicants, is set on October 18, 2018, and the last day to file opposition to the applications is set on October 22, 2018.

ARTICLE V
ACCREDITATION OF CITIZENS’ ARMS OF THE COMELEC FOR THE PLEBISCITE

Sec. 1. Who may be accredited as citizens’ arms. – Any bona-fide non-partisan group, association or organization from the civic, youth, professional, educational, business or labor sectors with identified leadership, membership and structure, and with demonstrated capacity to promote public interest and assist the Comelec in the performance of its functions and activities as mandated by the Constitution and by law, may be accredited as citizens’ arms of the Comelec.

Sec. 2. How to file. – The group, association or organization mentioned in Section 1 hereof may file a petition for accreditation pursuant to the Comelec Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE VI
PLEBISCITE QUESTIONS

Sec. 1. Guides in the formulation of the questions to be asked of the voters during the plebiscite. – The plebiscite questions in the succeeding Sections were formulated taking into consideration the provisions of Section 18, paragraph 2, Article X, of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines as well as Section 3, Article XV of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Section 18, paragraph 2, Article X of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, provides:

"Section 18. xxx.

"The creation of the autonomous region shall be effective when approved by majority of the votes cast by the constituent units in a plebiscite called for the purpose,"
provided that only provinces, cities, and geographic areas voting favorably in such plebiscite shall be included in the autonomous region."

Section 3, Article XV, of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, states:

"Sec. 3. Results of the Plebiscite. —

(a) The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be established and all the provinces and cities of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao created under Republic Act No. 6734, as amended by Republic Act No. 9054, shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region if the majority of the votes cast in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall be in favor of the approval of this Organic Law: Provided, That the provinces and cities of the present Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall vote as one geographical area;

(b) Any of the municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in the Province of Lanao del Norte that votes favorably for its inclusion in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region: Provided, That the majority of the votes cast in the province of Lanao del Norte shall be in favor of the inclusion of the municipality in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

(c) Any of the barangays in the municipalities of Kabacan, Carmen, Aleosan, Pigcawayan, Plit, and Midsayap as enumerated in paragraph (c), Section 1 of this Article that votes favorably for its inclusion in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region: Provided, That the majority of the votes cast in the municipality to which the barangay belongs shall be in favor of the inclusion of the barangay in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

(d) The City of Cotobato shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region if the majority of the votes cast in the city shall be in favor of its inclusion;

(e) The City of Isabela in the Province of Basilan shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region if the majority of the votes cast in the city shall be in favor of the inclusion of the City of Isabela in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region: Provided, That the majority of the votes cast in the Province of Basilan shall be in favor of the inclusion of the City of Isabela in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

(f) Any other contiguous area where there is a resolution of the local government unit or a petition of at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters in the local government unit asking for its inclusion at least two (2) months prior to the conduct of the ratification of this Organic Law shall form part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region if the majority of the votes cast in the political units directly affected shall be in favor of the inclusion of the petitioning local government unit in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region."

Sec. 2. Plebiscite question for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, except Basilan Province. - The plebiscite question for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is:

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE APPROVAL OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO’?

Sec. 3. Plebiscite questions for the municipalities of Basilan. — The plebiscite questions for any of the municipalities of Basilan Province are;
1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE APPROVAL OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION”?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF ISABELA CITY, BASILAN, IN THE
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

Sec. 4. Plebiscite question for Isabela City, Basilan. – The plebiscite question for Isabela
City in Basilan is:

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF ISABELA CITY IN THE BANGSAMORO
AUTONOMOUS REGION?

Sec. 5. Plebiscite questions for each municipality in Lanao del Norte. – Six questions will
be asked of the voters in each municipality in Lanao del Norte. These are:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF Balo-i, Lanao del
Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF Munai, Lanao del
Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF Nunungan, Lanao
Del Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

4. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF Pantar, Lanao del
Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

5. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF MUNICIPALITY OF Tagoloan, Lanao del
Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

6. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF Tangkal, Lanao del
Norte, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

Sec. 6. Plebiscite questions for the six (6) municipalities of North Cotabato. – (a) For any
of the barangays of Aleosan, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY Dunguan, Aleosan, North
Cotabato, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY Lower Mingading,
Aleosan, North Cotabato, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY Tapodoc, Aleosan, North
Cotabato, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

(b) For any of the barangays of Carmen, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY Manarapan, Carmen,
North Cotabato, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY Nasapian, Carmen, North
Cotabato, in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region?
(c) For any of the barangays of Kabacan, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY NANGA-AN, KABACAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY SIMBUHAY, KABACAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY SANGGADONG, KABACAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

(d) For any of the barangays of Midsayap, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY DAMATULAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY KADIGASAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY KADINGILAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

4. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY KAPINPILAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

5. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY KUDARANGAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

6. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY CENTRAL LABAS, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

7. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY MALINGAO, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

8. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY MUDSENG, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

9. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY NABALAWAG, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

10. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY OLANDANG, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

11. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY SAMBULAWAN, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

12. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY TUGAL, MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

(e) For any of the barangays of Pigkawayan, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF LOWER BAGUER, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?
2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BALACAYON, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BURICAIN, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

4. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY DATU BINASING, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

5. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY KADINGILAN, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

6. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY MATILAC, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

7. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY PATOT, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

8. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY LOWER PANGANGKALAN, PIGKAWAYAN, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

(g) For any of the barangays of Pikit, North Cotabato:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BAGOINGED, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

2. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BALATICAN, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

3. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY S. BALONG, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

4. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY S. BALONGIS, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

5. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BATULAWAN, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

6. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY BULIOK, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

7. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY GOKOTAN, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

8. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY S. KABASALAN, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

9. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY S. LAGUNDE, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

10. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY MACABUAL, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?
11. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY MACASENDEG, PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO, IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

Sec. 7. Plebiscite question for Cotabato City. − The plebiscite question for Cotabato City is:

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE INCLUSION OF COTABATO CITY IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION?

Sec. 8. Plebiscite question(s) for local government unit(s) included in the plebiscite pursuant to Articles II and III of these Rules. − The plebiscite question(s) for local government unit(s) included in the plebiscite shall follow the same concept used in the formulation of the questions enumerated above.

Sec. 9. Translation of the plebiscite questions to Filipino or Arabic. − The above plebiscite questions shall be translated in Filipino. The plebiscite questions as translated in Filipino shall be submitted to the Comelec en banc for approval, and upon approval, printed in the official ballot, and in such other plebiscite forms requiring printing of the questions.

In areas where Arabic is of general use, the plebiscite questions in Filipino shall be translated in Arabic. The Arabic translation shall be printed in the official ballot in addition to and immediately below the Filipino version.

ARTICLE VII
INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Sec. 1. Supervision by the Comelec. − The Education and Information Department (EID) of the Comelec shall supervise the conduct of information campaigns on the plebiscite, including sectoral campaigns for indigenous communities, women, youth, religious, professionals and public and private sector employees, in every barangay, municipality, city and province where the plebiscite is to be conducted.

Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Resolution, the EID shall submit to the Comelec its information campaign plan taking into consideration the provisions of Section 10, Article XV of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

In the meantime, the EID shall conduct information dissemination campaigns regarding the special registration of voters, and these Rules.

The information dissemination campaigns provided in this Section shall be without prejudice to the information dissemination and public advocacy initiatives by the other government or non-governmental groups or individuals.

Pursuant to Section 10, Article XV of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) shall assist in the information dissemination campaign. Such campaign is without prejudice to other information dissemination and public advocacy initiatives by the other government or non-governmental groups or individuals.

Sec. 2. Assembly meeting or “pulong-pulong”. − (a) Every barangay within the plebiscite areas shall hold at least one assembly meeting or “pulong-pulong” during the campaign period, to enlighten the voters about the Organic Act. The EO shall supervise the assembly meeting or “pulong-pulong”.
If one meeting will not be sufficient, the barangay officials may hold as many meetings or “pulong-pulong” as may be adequate for the purpose herein stated.

In each assembly or “pulong-pulong”, the EO shall explain the procedures for the conduct of the plebiscite.

All PES shall see to it that this provision is complied with, within their respective areas of supervision.

(b) The punong barangay or his duly authorized representative shall:

1. Act as presiding officer or moderator during the meeting;

2. See to it that the discussions and debates are free and constructive and that speakers for both the affirmative and negative sides of the questions are given equal opportunity and time to expound on their views;

3. Invite the speakers and resource persons from both private and public sectors, who are knowledgeable on the plebiscite issues for the enlightenment of the registered voters in the barangay. Any barangay member shall be free to ask questions and voice his opinion on any side of the plebiscite question; and

4. Certify in writing that a “pulong-pulong” in the barangay has been held. It shall state the date and place of the meeting, the number of persons who attended and the names of resource speakers, if any, and submit said certification to the EO.

Within three (3) days after the campaign period, the EO shall submit a report on the number of assemblies or pulong-pulongs held in every barangay within his jurisdiction. The EO shall submit the report to the EID.

Sec. 3. **Right of government officials and employees to express opinion for or against the ratification.** — All government officials and employees, as well as those in government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, may publicly express their opinion on any of the issues related to the plebiscite during the campaign period.

Sec. 4. **Prohibition on comelec officials, employees and its deputies.** — In order to maintain the independent and non-partisan status of the Comelec, its Chairman, Commissioners, official employees and deputies are prohibited from publicly expressing their views and opinion on, and from campaigning for or against, the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**ACCREDITATION OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE JANUARY 21, 2019 PLEBISCITE**

Sec. 1. **Definition of terms.**— As used in this Article:

a) **Domestic observer or monitor** refers to any Filipino, whether or not a resident of the Philippines, doing observation or monitoring the conduct of the plebiscite.
b) **Domestic group, organization, committee or association** refers to any group of individuals organized under the laws of the Philippines.

c) **Foreigner or Foreign national** refers to any person whose nationality is other than Filipino, whether or not a resident of the Philippines.

d) **Foreign group, organization, committee or association** refers to any group of individuals organized under the laws other than that of the Philippines.

e) **International-domestic monitoring body** – the body created by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panels mentioned in Section 6, Article XV, of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Sec. 2. **Qualifications for accreditation.**— Applicants must have a **bona fide** intention to participate in the conduct of the plebiscite for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law *exclusively* as observers or monitors of the electoral process, must be free from any political, economic or other conflicts of interests that would interfere with conducting observations / monitoring accurately and impartially and/or drawing conclusions about the character of the electoral process accurately and must comply with the provisions under Sections 6 and 10 hereof. Applicants are required to disclose their intention for involvement in the conduct of the plebiscite as **domestic or foreign observers or monitors**.

Sec. 3. **Application for accreditation** – Filipino or Foreign nationals, whether as individuals or in groups, whether representing governmental or private interests, who are interested to observe or monitor the conduct of the plebiscite for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, shall file personally an Application for Accreditation at the COMELEC Education and Information Department (EID) or the Offices of the Regional Election Directors of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Region X and Region XII (OREDs ARMM, X and XII).

Sec. 4. **Application forms.**— Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the COMELEC EID, the Offices of the Regional Election Directors and Provincial Election Supervisors of ARMM, Regions X and XII. They may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (http://www.comelec.gov.ph).

Sec. 5. **Documentary requirements.**— The application shall be supported by the following documents:

a) Duly accomplished application form for accreditation;

b) Two (2) recently taken 2"x 2" colored photographs of the applicant;

c) If foreigner or foreign group, organization, committee or association organization, endorsement issued by the ambassador or consul of the applicant's home country; and

d) Terms of Reference or similar document, explaining the purposes of the elections observation mission.

Sec. 6. **Period for filing application for accreditation.**— The period for filing applications for accreditation shall be from the effectivity of this Rules until **December 14, 2018**. This period shall be non-extendible, and applications filed after the last day of filing shall not be entertained.
Sec. 7. Opposition to the application for accreditation. – Any opposition to applications for accreditation shall be filed within five (5) days from filing of the application being contested. The opposition for accreditation shall be filed with the Office where the application being contested was filed.

Sec. 8. Grounds for opposition. - The opposition shall be filed on any of the following grounds:

a) the applicant has a previous derogatory record; or

b) any of the submitted documentary requirements is not authentic, falsified or contains any information which is false.

The Director IV of EID or the Regional Election Director (RED) concerned shall resolve the opposition within three (3) days from receipt thereof.

For this purpose, the EID; ORED ARMM; ORED X and ORED XII shall post an updated list of Applicants at the Bulletin Boards in their respective offices.

Sec. 9. Identification Cards. – Upon approval of the application, the EID, OREDS of ARMM, Regions X and XII shall issue identification cards to the accredited observers / monitors.

Sec. 10. Privileges. – Duly accredited domestic or foreign observers / monitors shall have the following privileges:

a) Unimpeded access to all stages of the electoral processes;

b) Unimpeded access to all persons concerned with electoral processes, including:

1. Electoral officials at all levels, upon reasonable requests;

2. Members of legislative bodies and government and security officials whose functions are relevant to organizing democratic electoral exercises;

3. All of the organizations or persons that have sought to take affirmative or negative positions on the issue/s in the plebiscite;

4. News media personnel; and

5. All organizations, persons that are interested in achieving genuine democratic electoral exercises in the country.

Sec. 11. Code of Conduct. – In order to provide an impartial and accurate assessment of the nature of the electoral processes, all duly accredited observers / monitors shall be bound by the Code of Conduct for International Elections Observers/Monitors. Furthermore, an accredited domestic, foreigner, foreign group, organization, committee, or association shall:

a) Respect the sovereignty of the country, as well as, the fundamental rights and fundamental freedoms of its people;

b) Respect the laws of the country and the authority of the COMELEC;
c) Respect and protect the integrity of the Domestic Observation groups or International Election Observation mission;

d) Maintain strict political impartiality at all times, including leisure time in the country;

e) Not obstruct any stage of the election proceedings on Plebiscite Day (i.e. voting, counting and tabulation and proclamation of results) including pre-plebiscite and post-plebiscite processes;

f) Display the identification card provided by COMELEC;

g) Ensure that all of their observations or monitoring reports are accurate and comprehensive, noting the positive from negative and significant from insignificant factors, and identifying patterns that could have an impact on the integrity of the electoral process and/or the results of the plebiscite;

h) Refrain from making any personal comments about their observations or conclusions to the members of the media or the public before the election observation mission makes a statement;

i) Be aware of other Election Observation Missions, both international and domestic, and cooperate with them as instructed by the leadership of the Election Observation Mission;

j) Maintain proper personal behavior and respect others, including exhibiting sensitivity to the country's cultures and customs, exercise sound judgment in personal interactions and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times, including leisure times; and

k) In case of concern about the violation of any of the provisions of the Code of Conduct by the observer/monitor, the Election Observation Mission/Monitoring Body shall conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Sec. 12. Summary Revocation of Accreditation.- The accreditation of any observer/monitor may be summarily revoked by the Plebiscite Committee by confiscating the Identification Card, and removing him/her or the group from the polling station and, due to any of the following grounds:

- Any violation of the Code of Conduct.

- Any disruptive behavior by anyone in the group.

- Misconduct which may include but not limited to:

  a) breaching or attempting to breach the secrecy of the ballot;
  b) knowingly obstructing electoral proceedings;
  c) asking electors about their voting preference while observing at polling station.

The accreditation of the organizations may also be revoked if it refuses to promptly remove an observer found to be in breach of this Code from their list of nominated individuals.
The power of the Plebiscite Committee to remove observers/monitors for misconduct is in addition to their general power to keep order at the relevant electoral proceeding.

Sec. 13. Period of validity of accreditation. - Accreditation of domestic or foreign election observers / monitors shall be valid from the date of approval of the application until the end of plebiscite period or until February 05, 2019.

Sec. 14. Prohibited Acts. - It shall be unlawful for any domestic, foreigner, domestic or foreign group, organization, committee or association to:

a) Aid any person or group of persons in whatever manner, directly or indirectly, relative to the conduct of the plebiscite (Secs. 81 & 89, OEC);

b) Take part or influence in any manner in the conduct of the plebiscite Secs. 81 & 261 (j), OEC);

c) Engage in partisan political activities which refer to acts designed to affect the results of the plebiscite (Sec. 79 (b), OEC);

d) Contribute or make any expenditure in connection with any plebiscite campaign or partisan political activity (Secs. 81 & 261 (j), OEC);

e) Enter any polling place without consent of the chairman of the Electoral Board concerned (Sec. 192, OEC);

f) Mingle and talk with voters inside any polling place, or otherwise disrupt the proceedings in the polling place (Sec. 19 shall not 2, OEC);

g) Threaten, intimidate, or actually causes, inflicts or produces any violence, injury, punishment, damage, loss or disadvantage upon any person (Sec. 261 (e), OEC); and

h) Propagate false and alarming reports or information, transmit or circulate false orders, directives or messages relating to the conduct of the plebiscite (Sec. 261 (z.11), OEC).

Sec. 14. Penalty for violation. - Any violation of the immediately preceding Section shall be punishable as an election offense which, if found guilty, may be penalized by an imprisonment of not less than one (1) but not more than six (6) years and shall not be subject to probation. In addition, if the guilty party is a Filipino, the offender shall be sentenced to suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of right of suffrage. On the other hand, if the guilty party is a foreigner, he shall be sentenced to deportation, which shall be enforced after the prison term has been served (Section 264, OEC).
ARTICLE IX
MASS MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR THE
JANUARY 21, 2019 PLEBISCITE

Sec. 1. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the COMELEC to ensure accurate reporting on the conduct and results of the plebiscite for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law by providing maximum access to all stages of the process of this electoral exercise to accredited media practitioners, subject only to conditions essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property and privileged information.

Sec. 2. **Definitions.** – As used in this Rules:

a) **Foreign Media** refers to those who are engaged in news reporting for and on behalf of a foreign media corporation or entity, regardless of their nationality;

b) **Local Media** refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on a local scale, including correspondents of, and freelancers on assignment for, regional, provincial, city or municipal publications or broadcast entities; except that local media who operate in the National Capital Region (NCR) shall be considered as National Media as defined below;

c) **Media practitioner** refers to a person or group of persons actively engaged in the pursuit of information gathering and reporting or distribution, in any manner or form, including, but not limited to, the following:

   a) Blogger  
   b) Documentary Maker  
   c) Feature Film Maker  
   d) Novelist  
   e) Online Journalist  
   f) Photo Journalist  
   g) Playwright  
   h) Print Journalist  
   i) Professional photographer  
   j) Professional Videographer  
   k) Public Relations Contractor  
   l) Radio Journalist  
   m) Screenwriter  
   n) Television Journalist  
   o) Television Production

d) **National Media** refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on a nationwide scale, including provincial correspondents of, and freelancers on assignment for national publications or broadcast entities; and

e) **Other Media** refers to those engaged in other forms of journalism, including, but not limited to, opinion writers, public relations practitioners, creative writers, bloggers, feature film and documentary film makers, and the like.

f) **Freelancer** refers to those who do not work full time for a media company but is hired by different media companies for certain assignments.

Sec. 3. **General requirements for accreditation.** – Media practitioners applying for accreditation shall submit the following:
a) A fully accomplished application form for accreditation;

b) Two (2) recently taken 2"x 2" colored photographs; and where applicable, an endorsement from the publisher, editor-in-chief, assignment editor, station manager, or similar officer of the newspaper, television station, radio station, or online publication employing the applicant;

c) An endorsement from the appropriate officer of the broadcast entity or film distributor which has committed to air/distribute the work; and

d) In the case of freelancers, a valid assignment letter from the bona fide media organization for which the freelancer is on assignment.

Endorsements from any person other than those mentioned above shall not be honored; provided, that the application of freelancers whose previous accomplishments are highly visible, respected and widely recognized need not be endorsed.

A freelancer shall be accredited only if he or she qualifies under either of the following:

a) Must be on assignment for a professionally recognized organization, provided, that the request for accreditation shall be made by the organization he or she is representing; or

b) Must have previous accomplishments which are highly visible, respected and widely recognized.

The application for accreditation of a freelancer need not be endorsed, but the application must be made by the organization he or she is representing.

In addition, media practitioners engaged in blogging and online publications shall be subject to the following requirements:

a) Submit the URL of the online publication or blog showing the applicant’s name or listing the applicant as part of the reporting team for that site;

b) Submit a copy of regular online articles or blogs related to the topic of politics, elections, governance or other related topics, by-lined or published on the applicant’s or similar online sites or blogs in the last six months;

c) The website or online publication should be updated at least once per week with contents which are original, dated and extend beyond links and forums;

d) No personal websites, fan sites, forums, and sites containing personal diaries will be eligible for accreditation. Only website editors and writers shall qualify for accreditation; and

e) Blogs must be well established, updated at least once every two weeks, contain content on politics, elections, or related topics, and show an
acceptable level of readership. Commercial or company blogs are not eligible for accreditation.

Online publications which are communications outreach or advocacy publications of non-governmental organizations do not qualify for media accreditation.

Sec. 4. Specific requirements for accreditation of foreign media. – In addition to the requirements mentioned in the immediately preceding section, all foreign media requesting for accreditation – including reporters, correspondents and stringers, cameramen, photographers and other members of the news/editorial staff of foreign wire agencies, regardless of nationality, shall submit individual endorsements from the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over the foreign media entity or organization they are representing or are on assignment for.

Sec. 5. Application forms. – Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the COMELEC Education and Information Department (EID), and in the Offices of the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers of ARMM, Region X and XII which areas of jurisdiction are participating in the conduct of the plebiscite. Application forms may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (http://www.comelec.gov.ph)

Sec. 6. Period for filing application for accreditation. – The period for the filing of application for accreditation shall be from the effectivity of this resolution up to December 7, 2018. This period shall be non-extendable and applications filed after the December 7, 2018 will not be entertained.

Sec. 7. Personal filing of applications for accreditation; where to file. – Filing of applications for accreditation shall be done personally at the following offices:

a) EID - for national and foreign media
   - for other media, both domestic and foreign, such as novelists, screenwriters, playwrights, and those involved in the production of feature films and documentaries

b) Offices of the concerned Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES) in ARMM, Region X and Region XII for local media

Sec. 8. Approval of applications for accreditation. – Approval of applications for accreditation shall be delegated by the Chairman to the:

a) Director IV of the COMELEC-EID- for national, foreign media and other media;

b) concerned PES in ARMM, Regions X and XII - for local media

Sec. 9. Report on actions taken on applications for accreditation. – Within five (5) days from December 7, 2018, the PES shall furnish the EID, via facsimile or e-mail, a list of all applications received, indicating the status, whether approved or denied.

Sec. 10. Media card. – Upon approval of the application, the EID and PES shall issue media cards to all accredited media practitioners. Media cards must be personally claimed from...
the EID, for national, foreign and other media; and from the concerned OPES, in case of local media.

The COMELEC media card is strictly non-transferable and is valid only for the purpose for which it was issued. It shall be worn prominently whenever the media practitioners are covering or observing COMELEC or electoral events.

Improper use of the media card, or use thereof not in accordance with these guidelines, shall be considered abuse in the use thereof and carries the penalty of revocation.

Sec. 11. Access. – Duly accredited media practitioners shall be allowed maximum access to all stages of the electoral process, subject to the conditions as essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, and privileged information.

Sec. 12. Rules of Conduct. - All media practitioners shall observe the following rules of conduct:

a) Not more than three (3) media practitioners shall be allowed inside the polling place at any one time;

b) Upon entry into the polling places, media practitioners shall immediately identify themselves before the Plebiscite Committee by presenting their media cards; and

c) Unprofessional activities shall not be tolerated. The accreditation of any media practitioner found to have engaged in any unprofessional activity shall be summarily revoked by the Plebiscite Committee where the activity complained of is committed, by confiscating the media card of the offender.

Unprofessional activities shall include:

1. Any behavior deemed disruptive of the conduct of voting, counting, or canvassing, such as, but not limited to, conducting interviews inside the polling place or canvassing center;

2. Engaging in partisan political activities, which refer to acts designed to promote the affirmative or negative vote of the electorate;

3. Any behavior intended to unduly influence the choice of voters;

4. Distributing campaign materials; and

5. Any behavior deemed unlawful.

d) The revocation shall be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting, stating therein the reasons therefor.
ARTICLE X
PRECINCTS AND VOTING CENTERS

Sec. 1. Precincts and voting centers. – Except for Marawi City, the established precincts after the October 09, 2018 hearing of the Election Registration Board (ERB) in the areas covered by the plebiscite, shall be used for purposes of the January 21, 2019 plebiscite.

In the case of Marawi City, the established precincts after the October 25, 2018 hearing of the Marawi City ERB, shall be used for purposes of the plebiscite.

The established precincts shall, insofar as applicable, be clustered in accordance with the clustering procedures used in the May 14, 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections but disregarding the clustering procedures for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Except for Marawi City, the voting center designated by the Comelec in the May 14, 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections shall be used for purposes of the plebiscite, unless otherwise ordered by the Comelec.

In the case of Marawi City, the polling places designated by the Comelec for the September 22, 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections in said city, shall be used for purposes of the plebiscite, unless otherwise ordered by Comelec.

Sec. 2. Transfer of voting center. – The location of a voting center designated in the May 14, 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, shall not be changed, except upon written petition of the majority of the voters of the precinct or agreement of all the political parties or by a resolution of the Comelec upon prior notice and hearing.

No location of voting center shall be changed starting December 22, 2018, except when it is destroyed or it cannot be used.

ARTICLE XI
QUALIFIED VOTERS AND LISTS OF VOTERS

Sec. 1. Qualified voters. – All registered voters in the provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays mentioned in Section 4, Article I of these Rules, as of the last ERB hearings before the plebiscite, are qualified to vote in the plebiscite, provided they are at least eighteen (18) years old on or before January 21, 2019:

Sec. 2. List of voters. – The Information Technology Department (ITD) of the Comelec shall cause the printing of three (3) copies of the Posted Computerized Voters List (PCVL) and one (1) copy of the Election Day Computerized Voters List (EDC VL). Both lists shall be certified by the concerned ERB at least five (5) days before the scheduled date for the posting of the PCVL.

One (1) copy of the PCVL shall be given to the Plebiscite Committee (PlebCom) for use on plebiscite day. The other two (2) copies of the PCVL shall be distributed as follows:

(a) One copy for posting at the office of the Election Officer; and

(b) One copy for posting at the bulletin board of the municipal hall.
The Plebiscite Committee shall post one (1) copy of the PCVL Report at the polling place on plebiscite day before the opening of the polls.

Sec. 3. Date of posting of the PCVL. - The EO shall post the PCVL not later than the date provided in the appropriate resolution to be issued by the Comelec in connection with the plebiscite.

ARTICLE XII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 1. Rules on constitution, appointment, designation of the plebiscite committee, voting, counting of votes, canvassing of votes and proclamation of results of the plebiscite. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of these Rules, the CBOP shall submit to Comelec en banc the proposed rules on the constitution, appointment, designation of the plebiscite committee, voting, counting of votes, canvassing of votes, and proclamation of the results of the plebiscite.

Sec. 2. Applicability of the Omnibus Election Code, other election laws and resolutions. - The pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Acts No. 6646, 10756, 11054 and resolutions of the Comelec not inconsistent with these Rules shall, as far as practicable, apply to the January 21, 2019 plebiscite.

Sec. 3. Publication and dissemination. - The EID shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, and give it widest dissemination.

Sec. 4. Effectivity. - This Rules shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SO ORDERED.

SHERIFF M. ABAS
Chairman

COMMISSIONER

LUJE TITO F. GUINGA
Commissioner

MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner

SOCCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner

MARLON S. GASQUEJO
Commissioner

ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.
Commissioner