

Comelec bares poll bets with registered social media accounts

MANILA -- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Wednesday released the names of senatorial candidates and party-list groups that have so far registered the website name and web address of their official blog and/or social media pages.

As of Wednesday, a total of 23 senatorial bets and 17 party-list groups have registered their social media accounts with the poll body's Education and Information Department (EID).

"The Comelec reminds each registered political party and candidate to immediately register with the Education and Information Department (EID) of the Commission, the website name and addresses of the official Blog and/or social

media pages of such political party or candidate," it said in a statement.

"Any other blog or social media page which, when taken as a whole, has for its primary purpose the endorsement of a candidate, whether or not directly maintained or administered by the candidate or their official representatives, shall be considered additional official blogs or social media pages of the said candidate," the Comelec added.

Among the candidates running for senatorial positions that have registered are Sergio Osmeña III, Nancy Binay, Danilo V. Roleda, Pia Cayetano, Cynthia A. Villar, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Jose Manuel Diokno, Paolo Benigno A. Aquino IV, Florin Hilbay, Manuel A. Roxas

II, Aquilino Martino "Koko" L. Pimentel, Rodrigo "Jiggy" D. Manicad Jr., and Willie Ong.

The party-list groups that have complied with the order of the Comelec are 1-CARE, AAMBIS-OWA, ABAKADA, Abono, Act Teachers, Agbiag, Agri Agra na Repormang Para sa Magsasaka ng Pilipinas Movement, AKBAYAN CITIZENS' ACTION PARTY, AKO BISDAK, Anakpawis, BAYAN MUNA, FICTAP, Kabayan, Luntiang Pilipinas, Magsasaka and Movement for Economic Transformation and Righteous Opportunities (METRO).

Also included are Murang Kuryente, OFW FAMILY, PBB, PTA, SAGIP, Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP) and Wow Pilipinas.

For queries, the poll body advised the candidates that they may be reached via telephone at 525-9294.

Based on the rules and regulations of Republic Act 9006, otherwise known as the "Fair Elections Act", candidates and political parties that will use internet, mobile and social media propaganda are required to register the website name and web address of the official Blog and/or official media page.

It added that any other blog or social media page endorsing a candidate will be considered as another blog or social media page.

There are 62 senatorial candidates and 134 party-list groups running in the May polls. (PNA)

Wiretapped info on narco list can't be used as evidence: solons

MANILA -- Two senators on Wednesday said illegally wiretapped information, even if provided by foreign governments, is a "fruit of the poisonous tree" and therefore inadmissible in court.

Senator Panfilo Lacson questioned Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo's claim that the information involving personalities and political figures with drug links were sourced from wiretapped communications done by foreign governments.

Fruit of the poisonous tree is a legal doctrine which describes evidence obtained indirectly through illicit means and is inadmissible in court.

"Malacañang's claim that the narco list information is based on wiretaps done by foreign governments doesn't make things right -- unless those who conducted the wiretap were armed with judicial authorization in which case, the proceeds should have been used as evidence in court as it has strong probative and evidentiary value to prosecute the personalities involved," Lacson said.

"Upon the other hand, if the wiretap is done illegally, it is nothing but the fruit of a poisonous tree," he added.

Senator Franklin Drilon echoed Lacson's remark, saying the wiretapped information "has no value at all."

"It cannot be used as evidence, having been obtained illegally. In law, such 'wiretapped' information is the 'fruit of the poisonous tree' not admissible as evidence," Drilon said.

Earlier, Panelo said there is nothing wrong with receiving wiretapped communications from foreign countries even though wiretapping is illegal under Philippine law.

Republic Act 4200, or the

Anti-Wiretapping Law, prohibits the tapping of any wire or cable or using other devices to record, intercept, or secretly overhear any private communication or spoken word when it is unauthorized by all parties in the conversation, except when it is done pursuant to a court order.

The list of politicians allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade is set to be made public next week to enable voters to make a "wise choice" in May's mid-term elections.

"We hope to release it next week. We are vetting it

right now. We are making sure of the list," Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) spokesperson, Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, said in a phone interview Wednesday.

While several senators have opposed the disclosure of the names on the list, Malaya said the public has the right to be informed regarding this matter.

"To us, since the election is coming and we want to eradicate drugs, the people should be aware of the protectors, the coddlers of drug syndicates. We have a different opinion with the senators," he added. (PNA)

Palace orders whole-of-gov't approach in poverty reduction

MANILA -- Malacañang directed all government agencies to support and actively participate in the efforts to reduce poverty incidence in the country. In Memorandum Circular 59, signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on Wednesday and issued to the media on Friday, Malacañang ordered a "whole-of-government" approach in supporting the National Anti-Poverty Commission's (NAPC) Sambayanihan: Serbisyon Sambayanan program.

"To ensure a 'whole-of-government' approach to poverty alleviation and the widest deployment of basic social services to our poor-

est communities, all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, are hereby directed to support, participate and provide the necessary assistance, consistent with their respective mandates, to the NAPC in the implementation of the Sambayanihan," the circular reads. The Sambayanihan program intends to deliver President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to reduce poverty incidence in the country to 7.6 percent by 2022. Part of the NAPC's efforts was the launch of the Sambayanihan Caravan in September 2018, where government agencies will

deliver frontline support and basic social services directly to the poorest communities in the country. "Its Caravan and other component programs seek to provide a venue for inter-agency collaboration at the provincial and municipal levels to address the root causes of poverty," the circular added. The newly-signed Memorandum Circular also cited Republic Act 8425, or the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act", highlighting the government's policy to meet the basic needs of Filipinos, such as health, food and nutrition, water, shelter and decent housing, among others. (PNA)

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PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will. Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU!



Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.

3 O'CLOCK PRAYER

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

"O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!"

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One have mercy on us and on the whole world." (3x) Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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