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Exchanges: An Analysis of GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* Coverage Using Public Journalism Concepts and Values

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October 2013

EXCHANGES:
AN ANALYSIS OF GMA NEWS ONLINE'S *ELEKSYON 2013* COVERAGE USING
PUBLIC JOURNALISM CONCEPTS AND VALUES

by

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DEDICATION

To God

One may count everything
including all knowledge
as loss for the surpassing worth
of knowing Him as Lord

Soli Deo gloria!

ABSTRACT

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This research analyzes the May 13 national elections coverage of GMA News Online, *Eleksyon 2013*, using concepts and values found in public journalism. These concepts and values were expressed by Edmund Lambeth, Lewis Friedland and David Merritt. Thirty-seven news articles and two Google+ Hangout discussions published and conducted on Election Day were subjected to both quantitative and qualitative analysis, specifically, content and textual analyses. The content analysis method was used to provide a systematic ground for the textual analysis method, wherein news article and discussion samples were subjected to examination vis-à-vis public journalism concepts and values. To provide a theoretical ground for the study, Levels of Corporate Culture, Horizontal Structure of Organization and Selective Gatekeeping Theory were used to create an operational framework that shows how a newsroom's values, in this case, GMA News Online, can influence the way they produce news and do their work as journalists.

This study shows that many important aspects of GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* coverage contained substantial expressions of public journalism concepts and values even if GMA News Online does not openly identify itself as a public journalism organization. It also presents how meaningful exchanges that pointed to discussion of solutions to problems between citizens, journalists and experts were conducted in the coverage.

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

“If journalists do, in fact, make things, then their field is an art, not a science. We might say that journalism is one of the more important arts of democracy and its ultimate purpose is not to make news or reputations, or headlines, but simply to make democracy work.”

- Jay Rosen (1993)

There are basically two schools of journalism with regards to journalists’ relationship with the public.

But which is right – Walter Lippmann’s or John Dewey’s?

About 90 years ago, two thinkers, both of exceptional stature in the academe and their respective circles, made an argument regarding the role of the public in a democracy.

An informed and engaged public? It’s more or less an illusion. This is what Lippmann tried to say in his 1922 book *Public Opinion* (as cited in Choi, 2002).

“Lippmann also argues,” continued Choi, “that the public does not have the ability to deal with information for managing the nation.”

Therefore, journalism must function as a vehicle to convey experts’ and elites’ opinion as to how the public should live, not as a forum for public discussion (Choi, 2002). “It was foolish,” according to Edmund Lambeth talking about Walter Lippmann’s ideal, “to expect average citizens to have a reliable opinion on every public issue... The most we could expect is an occasional yes/no or up/down verdict” (as cited in Choi, 2002).

Certainly not! Governments that do not engage their governed in the governing process is anachronistic, and much less, a democracy. John Dewey fervently argued in his own treatise *The Public and Its Problems*, countering Lippmann, by saying:

Representative government must at least seem to be founded on public interests *as they are revealed* to public belief. The days are past when government can be carried on without any pretense of ascertaining the wishes of the governed. In theory, their assent must be secured (Lippmann, 1927, emphasis added).

“Newspapers needed to move beyond purely reporting events to become vehicles for public education, debate and structured discussion of public issues,” said journalism professors Jack Rosenberry and Burton St. John III (2010), referring to John Dewey's lofty ideals. This is clearly in opposition to what Walter Lippmann advocated – that mass media should be limited to spokesperson function for the experts and the elites.

So, who is right? Or, to put the inquiry more properly, *whose idea is better?*

For about six decades journalists, at least in the United States, had the consensus that Lippmann had the better idea. Dubbed as “new professionalism,” the journalist under Lippmann’s ideals must be strictly neutral; he is prohibited from taking sides, must report facts straight, and must be fair and balanced. What resulted was a journalism that doesn’t care about anything but putting out facts without regards to values other than newsworthiness, profitability and the so-called liturgy of Journalism’s priesthood - public’s right to know, the First Amendment, objectivity, the public good (Merritt, 1998).

Jay Rosen, a disciple of John Dewey and staunch champion of the latter’s philosophies, thought that above and beyond making news, the journalist’s responsibility is “simply to make democracy work” (as cited in Merritt, 1998).

To do this, journalists must, in the process of informing, be deliberate in making choices as to how they frame and choose stories so that the chance of the public being better informed is highest.

John Dewey (1927) argues: “The important consideration is that opportunity be given ideas to speak and to become the possession of the multitude. The essential need is the improvement of the methods and the constitution of debate, discussion and persuasion.”

Lewis Friedland (2003) meanwhile claimed that decades-long subscription to Lippmann’s “new professionalism” has led the American press to consider news as negative and must emphasize conflict and that journalists must be distanced from public life.

This led to a dismayingly low opinion of journalists in America during the late 1980’s, with Rosen saying, “[1988] saw the press as a player, caught up in a system that was making a mockery of politics” (as cited in Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010). Instead of being in the business of informing and helping the public make informed decisions for the presidential elections that year, journalists alienated the public by reducing them to mere spectators of inferior campaign discourse (Carey as cited in Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010).

The response to this was the *public journalism movement*, inspired by Dewey’s vision of the Great Community. Public journalism “is not a settled doctrine or a strict code of conduct but an unfolding philosophy about the place of the journalist in public life” (Rosen as cited in Choi, 2002). The result of this philosophy is newspapers, or more broadly, news organizations in the world over, trying to connect with communities by

encouraging civic participation and regrounding politics coverage in view of public discussion and debate (Choi, 2002).

Through newsroom initiatives such as community dialogue initiation and surveys on issues for the purpose of focused news coverage, public discussions that dealt with community-level problems and issues were enlivened. Public journalism as experimented in the United States in the early 1990's amounted to at least 600 concrete projects (Friedland and Nichols as cited in Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010) that aimed to make public life go better.

Within a decade's time however, public journalism already saw a decline. "Much of the early energy, innovation and support from sources such as foundations and academics that gave the movement its momentum gradually declined," (Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010) and the bases of support "are not sufficient for a vital, continuing and innovative public journalism practice" (Friedland as cited in Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010).

Public journalism was criticized to be overbearing on already meager newsroom budgets, with little to no contribution to profit; it was seen as a lofty yet impractical project in a time when readership and revenue were in steep decline. Some claimed that the movement was a marketing ploy; "it was self-absorbed and self-righteous and even bordered on propaganda" (St. John as cited in Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010).

The legacy of public journalism and its ideals as envisioned by Dewey and Rosen (to make democracy work) however had a remnant – citizen journalists, or citizens who have been involved in the early public journalism projects of news organizations.

Citizen journalists however work the same way as traditional newsrooms: although they are not managed by professional journalists, it was somehow as flawed because it was still a one-way model. Understanding citizen journalism by putting into mind public journalism values can be of help. “Citizen journalists added more voices and perspectives to the mix,” said Rosenberry and St. John in a book introduction, adding that the Internet empowered citizens to better participate in the information-production process (2010).

This research banks on the premise that while public journalism as traditionally practiced declined, its functions of discussion could very well be done through the Internet, whose enormous power for engagement and interaction could deliver on the goal of improving democracy and public life.

Rosenberry and St. John III (2010) said, “Today, ‘cyber-democracy’ holds the potential for greater deliberative efficacy, even if beneficial outcomes are not as automatic as its more utopian advocates believed they would be.” These two professors would like to think that the current *reality* of citizen journalism, as legacy of public journalism of the past, doesn’t contribute much toward improving public life. But the *promise* is that if these citizen journalists will catch up and will be guided by the aspirations of public journalism, and professional journalists will work together with them who are also their audience, then public journalism will live on and will be a viable model of journalism for today audience and technologies. (Hence the title of their book *Public Journalism 2.0: The Promise and Reality of a Citizen-Engaged Press*).

1. The “social” elections of the Philippines

The Philippine media landscape has been witness to election coverage campaigns by major TV networks, which champion the cause of clean and violence-free polls. These advocacies arrived in the likes of “Boto Mo, I-Patrol Mo” of ABS-CBN and “Sa Isa Kong Boto” of GMA Network, where “professional journalists and citizen journalists [were able to] shine a national spotlight to local instances of corruption or violence” (Ressa M. A., 2012, p. 4). These initiatives are local examples of public journalism in that, they are citizen journalism initiatives. They have shown the power of social media on the Internet and on mobile phones to effect safeguarding measures against poll malfeasants.

Ressa tried to capture the spirit and benefits of a “social” elections in an article she wrote for her news organization’s 2010 election coverage:

The idea for Boto Mo, I-Patrol Mo was simple: get the people to care and to take action. It is people power with new technology! If you see something wrong or something good, tell us about it. If you see someone trying to buy the votes, snap a picture on your cell phone and send it to us. If you see a town mayor using public vehicles for his campaign, shoot a video with your cell phone and send it to us. If you see violence, tell us about it, and after a verification process, we will put it to air. Two months into the 4-month campaign, we received reports from the provinces that Boto Mo, I-Patrol Mo helped level the playing field where incumbents were running after we ran a story with the cell phone picture of city resources used for campaigns. So cell phones became effective weapons! (Ressa M. , 2009)

This form of coverage – expanding the potential of newsgathering from the tri-media to include new and social media, has been carried over from the 2010 to the 2013 midterm elections. In this research, GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* coverage was examined. It sought to assess expressions of public journalism values – especially the pursuit of making democracy work through public deliberation – in GMA News Online’s project. The coverage spanned from the use of traditional reporting to crowdsourcing important information through the microblogging site Twitter to facilitating discussion between journalists, citizens and experts through Google+ Hangout to measuring the opinion climate regarding candidates and their platforms¹. By constructing a meaningful assessment from texts analyzed through the lens of public journalism, this research was able to make a meaningful conclusion on how certain public journalism values and concepts were expressed in the coverage of a news organization that does not openly identify² itself as an organization that adheres to public journalism.

B. Statement of the Problem and Objectives

This research seeks to analyze public journalism values in GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* coverage through textual analysis.

Specifically, this study aims to:

- Analyze GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* news stories using framing concepts found in public journalism;
- Examine using public journalism concepts the discussions of readers that proceeded from news delivered by GMA News Online on Election Day

¹ GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* coverage is still available past the election season, at <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013>.

² About Us, GMA News Online, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/aboutus>

- Analyze the E13 Google+ Hangout of GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* coverage as a medium of discussion and deliberation between citizens, journalists and experts
- Situate GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* project in the public journalism movement

C. Significance of the Study

Public journalism and its existence in the Philippine journalism industry has not been explored or at the very least, has not been explored as much as other journalism topics, save for a growing interest of and body of knowledge produced by undergraduate students regarding online and citizen journalism, in the UP College of Mass Communication and communication schools elsewhere in the Philippines.

This research is arguably a first in the Philippine journalism academe, who can, aside from increasing the volume of knowledge exploring public journalism and journalism's role in democracy, explore the possibility of raising awareness of the public journalism theory and the prospects of teaching to their respective student bodies by including it in their curricula.

Second, this research is important to practicing journalists and newsrooms across the country, especially online ones, who are searching for alternative journalism practices and newsroom models. Public journalism could potentially help online newsrooms understand the potential of existing digital tools such as various social networking sites and online commenting systems to help make democracy work better.

Thirdly, this research is significant to journalism students who are seeking to improve on their craft in relation to how it serves their readers. Public journalism as

currently practiced, especially by citizen journalists through the citizen journalism initiatives, will arguably be better understood and appreciated with its concepts and values clear in mind.

Fourthly, this research is helpful to GMA News Online itself. While it does not openly identify itself as a public journalism news organization, it could benefit from knowing which parts of their coverage are expressions of public journalism concepts. Banking on that knowledge, it could significantly improve on its coverage; it could also develop a desire of more intentionally facilitating meaningful online discussions that forward the agenda of seeking solutions to problems, and thus, make democracy work better.

Last and most importantly, this research is significant to the readers served by GMA News Online. By knowing the potential of the public journalism model to improve democracy through proactive engagement between journalists and the public, communities and publics can be better informed of the journalism they consume, and make informed decisions based on the material ramifications of this relationship between journalists and citizens.

CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel (2007) in their seminal work *The Elements of Journalism* suggest that journalism's principles and purpose are defined by "something basic": the role news plays in the lives of the citizenry. This is grounded in the notion that journalism, community and democracy are almost inseparable concepts (p. 12). In a democracy, a government that is all about the voice of the people (Puno, 2008) and in a "government by discussion" as John Stuart Mill puts it (as cited in Puno, 2008), journalism is supremely fundamental that suppressing the freedoms guaranteed in a democracy, such as freedom of information and freedom of expression, means suppressing press freedom first (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2007).

Thus, journalism's primary purpose of "[providing] citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing," (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2007, p. 13) is in lieu of *servicing the demos*. Not just cognitively affecting them or setting an agenda that they could discuss, but all journalistic efforts must lead the citizens to effectively decide upon matters concerning them as a freedom-endowed body in the spirit of service. This definition is so consistent through history that "it is impossible to separate news from community and, over time, even more specifically from democratic community" (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2007, p. 13).

To safeguard these aspirations, democracies in their constitutions have provided for press freedom clauses. The most famous is the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which states, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The United Nations in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights also established press freedom and freedom of expression as basic human rights. In the Philippine constitution, it is guaranteed as a part of the Bill of Rights:

No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances (1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines).

Looking more closely, Kovach and Rosenstiel expounds on one of the duties or principles of the press – that journalism must provide a forum for public criticism:

From its origins in the Greek marketplace to the colonial American taverns, journalism has always been a forum for public discourse. The Hutchins Commission in 1947 placed this mission as an essential obligation of the craft, second only to telling the truth. “[T]he great agencies of mass communication should regard themselves as common carriers of public discussion,” the commission wrote (2007, p. 166).

This was realized in newspapers being arenas for discussion by the community, “a place to gather and talk,” through editorials, letters to the editor and opposite-the-editorial sections. In radio and TV, this was realized through talk shows and debates.

A. Public Journalism as a Response

Buzz Merritt (1998) recounts an unfortunate story, albeit fictional, of how journalists have twisted and abused the guarantees of press freedom:

Rarely, if ever, are we allowed the luxury, and burden, of thinking about Teresa Peron, the young Catholic school teacher in screenwriter Kurt Luedtke’s remarkable movie *Absence of Malice*. In the film, the fact that Teresa had an

abortion is about to be revealed in hundreds of thousands of copies the Miami newspaper. In the dew of early morning, she sits forlornly on her doorstep. She hears the paperboy working his way down the street, plunking newspapers on the grass. She picks hers up, sees the story, and starts slowly, wearily walking from yard to yard, picking up as many delivered newspapers, one at a time, as she can.

Merritt provides a disheartening commentary (1998, p. 3) of this account. He asserts that journalists “had made a decision” that Peron’s abortion, according to the fundamental news values, is newsworthy. “The decision was based on axioms about the public’s right to know, the First Amendment, objectivity, the public good – the liturgy of Journalism’s priesthood. The fact that she would kill herself as a result of the story would also be *dutifully* reported” (emphasis added). Reflecting on these, Merritt (1998) suggests how journalism has turned into a rigid and objective watchdog and gatekeeper who assumes to know what the public *needs* to know, and delivers accordingly. He wrote:

Deliberations began and ended in a culture that values, above all else, making information public: whose prime directive and fundamental urge is disclosure, whose cool and cultivated detachment enables them to separate their actions from the consequences of those actions.

This is also echoed by Kovach and Rosenstiel, who said that “journalistic independence has wandered into a kind of self-imposed solitary confinement from society at large” (2007, p. 126). Elliot Diringer, former reporter for *San Francisco Chronicles*, shared the same sentiments:

There is this notion that you should be disinterested to the point... that you should withdraw from civic affairs if you are a journalist. And I find that somewhat

troubling. I don't know why being a concerned citizen should be antagonistic with being a journalist (as cited in Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2007, p. 126).

Public journalism was the response (Nip, 2006; Rosen as cited in Nip, 2006) to this problem. Not only was the press disinterested, journalism seemed to have forgotten its obligations to the democratic community's life – “democracy did not work, [and] journalism did not work for democracy” (Friedland, *Public Journalism: Past and Future*, 2003, p. 13). More so, public journalism was born in a climate of extreme individualism and disinterest among the members of the citizenry, which was also symptomatic of an indifferent press (Batten as cited in Merritt, *What Citizen Journalism Can Learn from Public Journalism*, 2010, p. 23).

Choi (2002, p. 10) explains likewise that “the generative background of public journalism is explained by three facts: the decline of newspaper readers, research about the relationship between the public and mass media by journalism scholars, and the support of foundations (i.e., non-government journalism organizations) related to the mass media.”

Public journalism can be considered as “a theory in search of a practice” (Merritt, 2010). Thus, in its first years, the movement that was public journalism resulted in dozens of projects of newsrooms across the US designed to deal with the following realizations:

- Public life – that is, democracy – is in trouble and so is journalism.
- They are fully interdependent; one cannot exist without the other.
- Some of journalism's habits and mores are implicated in the problems of public life and in the disconnect between citizens and the press.

- It is in both the public interest and journalism's self-interest to figure out how to fulfil journalism's historic role in ways that repair those disconnects.
- Doing this requires a fundamental mental shift for journalists; it calls for moving away from detachment toward becoming a fair-minded participant in public life while maintaining professional objectivity (Merritt and McCombs as cited in Merritt, 2010, p. 27).

The very concept of dealing with journalism's disinterest with civic life as a goal of public journalism can be problematic said Jay Rosen, who wrote, "This was not something journalists could address from within. They were accustomed to covering the news, not rebuilding the logic on which the news was based" (as cited in Merritt, 2010, p. 24). This brought about ire from critics who thought that the public journalism movement was "cynical and... a pandering retreat from objectivity" (Merritt, 2010, p. 26).

B. Defining Public Journalism

The term "public journalism" was coined by Jay Rosen and Davis "Buzz" Merritt in 1993 (Merritt, 2010; Nip, 2008); this referred to the movement that would become "the best organized social movement inside journalism in the history of the American press" (Schudson, as cited in Nip, 2008, p. 179).

Attempts to define public journalism however could lead to the "creation of new values, patterns and actions", that could undermine or replace the values that gave birth to the movement in the first place (Friedland, *Public Journalism: Past and Future*, 2003, p. 16). However, one could describe public journalism as an "insistence on a logic of pragmatic experiment" (Friedland, 2003); and rightly so, because public journalism

attempted to solve problems of the viability of democracy and civic life through specific changes in the practice of the profession (Merritt, 2010, p. 30).

One could know public journalism by looking at the values that guide it and the goals it tries to achieve. In theory, public journalism is a response to the “new professionalism” espoused by Walter Lippman, which became the hallmark of the American press:

This larger view of the press role translated into series of specific journalistic roles, attitudes and routines. First the news is negative and emphasizes conflict. Second, the news is detached and journalists take an ironic and distanced stance toward public life. Third, journalism emphasizes strategy and tactics, rather than ideology. Fourth, the press is overdependent on official sources and experts, to the exclusion of the public (Friedland, *Public Journalism: Past and Future*, 2003).

Public journalism considers these as a kind of ideology that reflected on what was being done in the name of journalism (Friedland, 2003). Merritt personally considered these as “internal contradiction,” that while there is a claim to neutrality in terms of values, journalism is value-laden when it chooses to report about corruption, environmental degradation and labor abuse – they are in a sense expressions of journalists’ values that oppose dishonesty, pollution and exploitation (Merritt, *Public Journalism and Public Life: Why Telling the News is Not Enough*, 1998, p. 12). Merritt added that acknowledging this seeming subjectivity as a part of the operational culture of the press (i.e., the “new professionalism” movement) could lead to substantial changes beyond the content of news stories (Merritt, 1998).

C. Goals of Public Journalism

Of Walter Lippmann's philosophy of objectivity and detachment, Merritt writes:

We need to retain that part of his legacy, but the time has come to seriously question our long-standing acceptance of his views of the role of journalists in a democracy and the nature of democracy itself... Elitism and detachment are cultural traits that journalists can change simply by rethinking them (Merritt, 1998, p. 16).

Public journalism's goals embody Merritt's philosophy. It seeks to increase the capacity of the community to act on the news (Rosen et al. as cited in Nip, 2006, p. 213) and to help the community deliberate its problems to come up with solutions (Fouhy, 1995; Rosen et al. as cited in Nip, 2006).

Edmund Lambeth provides the "most explanatory (and ideologically neutral)" (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) outlining of the goals of public journalism:

1. Listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover;
2. examine alternative ways to frame stories on important community issues;
3. choose frames that stand the best chance to stimulate citizen deliberation and build understanding of issues;
4. take the initiative to report on major public problems in a way that advances public knowledge of possible solutions and the values served by alternative courses of action;
5. and pay continuing and systematic attention to how well and how credibly it is communicating with the public.

These goals are generalized by Nip (2006, p. 214) as: to connect to the community; to engage individuals as citizens, and; to help public deliberation in search for solutions. These are consistent with the goals used in a survey by the Indiana University School of Journalism about public journalism (Poynter.org as cited in Nip, 2006): giving ordinary people a chance to express their views on public affairs; motivating ordinary people to get involved in public discussions of important issues; and pointing people toward possible solutions to society's problems.

All in all, public journalism's goals can be summarized as helping news organizations "reconnect to their communities so they can engage their citizens in dialogues that lead to problem solving" (Fouhy as cited in Choi, 2002, p. 13).

D. Methods of Public Journalism

Friedland argued that for a newsroom or news organization to even try public journalism it should either understand the idea of public journalism in some form or through some related rubric; be committed to experimentation more generally and be willing to let its top executives make their judgments about how to run the organization; or it should not care precisely how the organization is run, as long as it is run profitably and public journalism is seen as either positive or neutral in that regard (Public Journalism: Past and Future, 2003, p. 120).

According to Merritt (1998, p. 112), the operative word in public journalism is *experimenting*:

From its inception, public journalism has been an idea seeking meaningful application rather than a set of operational principles or set of rules. People

unwilling to make the intellectual journey to understand it are destined to do public journalism badly, and in fact have done it badly (Merritt, 1998).

It can be surmised from these arguments that the first step in doing public journalism is understanding what it is and what it's trying to achieve.

Friedland's concept of "understanding the idea of public journalism in some form" is expounded in these "mental shifts" that journalists and newsrooms must undergo:

1. Public journalism moves beyond the limited mission of telling the news to a broader mission of helping public life go well, and acts out of that imperative.
2. It moves from detachment to being fair-minded participant in public life.
3. It moves from worrying about proper separations to concern with proper connections.
4. It moves beyond only describing what is going wrong to also imagining what going right would be like.
5. It moves from seeing people as consumers – as readers or non-readers, as bystanders to be informed – to seeing them as a public, as potential actors in arriving at democratic solutions to public problems (Merritt, *Public Journalism and Public Life: Why Telling the News is Not Enough*, 1998, pp. 139-140).

Moving from understanding the philosophies that guide public journalism to actually doing it, Merritt (*Public Journalism and Public Life: Why Telling the News is Not Enough*, 1998, pp. 122-130) enumerated several practical techniques that could be

employed by journalists and news organizations in keeping with public journalism's ideals and goals:

1. **Using a different nut graf.** Merritt (1998, p. 122) explained that while the nut graf as a concept "is well entrenched in journalism," its use beyond the traditional informing has not been well explored. Public journalists could use nut graf to engage people more deeply, by presenting "not just facts of the immediate situation but also known realities about how things work in the lives of people."
2. **Frame stories so that they situate readers as stakeholders in the issue at hand.** Merritt explained that journalists are used to frame their news stories so that readers are either critics or spectators of community situations gone wrong. When the readers are informed in the news stories that they, too, are stakeholders of an issue, "the picture that emerges is one of a community with an immediate problem, but with larger problems than [a] single symptom. It is resolution-driven premise that can be supported by quotes from police, prosecutors and members of the community... **This framing would not ignore the symptom that gave rise to the reporting in the first place but would move beyond it, expanding the frame**" (1998, p. 126, emphasis added).
3. **Cause the involvement of the readers by informing them how to.** Merritt (1998, p. 126) said that the journalists' occasional telling of how people could get involved in a discussion or civic activity should be made

a daily habit. “It connects people with other people in many different ways and begins to define community in a different way,” he added.

4. **Journalists should make themselves public.** While there might be a promotional aspect to this practice, Merritt held that informing readers of a news organization’s beats and contact details “allow people to see themselves as part of a public process of discussion and sharing information.” When reporters and staffers make themselves available for speaking to any group or gathering that requests their voice, the gap between the public and journalists is narrowed (1998, p. 126).
5. **Reporters and their news should identify stakeholders.** While doing this seems “obvious and good journalism,” Merritt argued (1998, p. 126) that many stories not only fail to recognize all stakeholders but they also focus on the peripheral ones. He pointed out the case of school policy reporting where in stories revolve most around school board directors, teachers and parents but miss the “ultimate stakeholders,” the students.
6. **Journalists must identify core and competing values in a story.** “Before important issues can be resolved,” Merritt explained, “competing core values must be resolved” (1998, p. 127). The importance of this cannot be exaggerated – many times readers do not realize that with regards to many issues and problems, they hold core values that are directly competing against others’ values. Stories must not only state the values that diverse readers hold; they must also reflect these underlying beliefs as part of the discussion about what to do.

7. **Journalists must also be unafraid of telling success stories.** Success stories “are invariably shoved at the least experienced reporter and shuffled to the back of local sections or zoned sections,” lamented Merritt. He added, “the risk of appearing naïve or being taken [for granted] outweighs, for many journalists, the usefulness of [success] stories” but readers on the other hand like success stories and can learn a lot from them if they are reported skilfully enough “to get at underlying matters such as motivation” (1998, p. 128).
8. **News stories must be written so that they advance deliberation.** “Give the public the incentive of knowing that someone is listening... and cares... and take the initiative in highlighting the values components of choices” (Yankelovich as cited in Merritt, 1998, p. 129). With these in mind, Merritt explained that journalists could advance the public’s level of discussion of critical issues and move it toward resolution.
9. **Journalists must embark on major reporting projects with public journalism in mind (Merritt, 1998, p. 129).** Reporting projects such as election coverage are traditionally dealt with these questions in mind: “Is the reporting we have done accurate, complete, fair and thorough? Why does the problem exist/persist; what mechanisms exist that deal with it; why are they not working?” On the other hand, public journalism walks the extra mile by also asking questions such as these: “What would be good outcomes? What is the goal? What mechanisms from different stakeholders might come into being to help attack the problem? Who

needs to talk to whom (and about what) to resolve the problem? What core values stand in the way of resolution and how and where can they be discussed?”

Public journalism has been called “solutions journalism,” but it is not aimed at problem solving, rather it reengages citizens to solve the problems they face (Merritt, 1998, p. 142). In the context of this subsection, public journalism can be seen as purposefulness and not a technique. This helps in understanding that public journalism must not be limited to the techniques it employs, which is one point of criticism (Merritt, 1998, p. 121).

Merritt’s words could be cited as conclusion to this section:

Public journalism is not easy; if it were, it wouldn’t be particularly important or particularly interesting; it would merely be a different, if controversial, journalistic technique. It is much more than technique. It requires a philosophical journey because it is fundamental change in how we conceive our role in life (1998, p. 141).

E. The Concept of the Public – Dewey and Habermas

According to John Dewey, the public emerges when people’s action have consequences beyond the persons immediately involved in the action (Heikkila & Kunelius, 1996). This means that problems, what Dewey calls as “distant effects,” of people’s interaction call a public into being. The public is called and is not present all the time:

The public consists of all those who are affected by the indirect consequences of transactions to such an extent that it is deemed necessary to have those

consequences systematically cared for... Those indirectly affected formed a public which took steps to conserve its interests by instituting composition and other means of pacification to localize trouble. (Dewey, 1927).

Thus community problems are constitutive elements of the public; to explain Dewey in other words, when private individuals cause something that will affect not only him but also others in the community, they stimulate to call those affected to deal with the problem. They are called the public. Heikkila and Kunnelius also explains Dewey in their own terms:

For from the point of view of the “others” (those indirectly affected), your action can become a problem. And when it does, your action begins to articulate them as a public having an interest to your action (1996).

Jürgen Habermas’s concept of the *public sphere* is also of importance to this study. The Habermasian concept of public sphere is “the sphere of private people come together as a public” (Habermas, 1962). While he espouses the common notion of what public is – a term you can call events and occasions that are open to all, in contrast to closed or exclusive affairs, he also believes that the public sphere has transformed into an arena that engages people (Habermas as cited in Dimaculangan, 2012, p. 5):

The bourgeois public sphere may be conceived above all as the sphere of private people come together as a public; they soon claimed the public sphere regulated from above against the public authorities themselves, to engage in a debate over general rules governing relations in the basically privatized but publicly relevant sphere of commodity exchange and social labor (Habermas, 1962, p. 27).

There are striking differences between Dewey's public and Habermas' public sphere, but they treat the private as either causative (Dewey) or elementary (Habermas) and thus important.

In public journalism discourse, it was Dewey who advocated the concept of Great Community, in which the Great Society reaches its culmination through communication. Dewey argues that the public, which has come together because of a communal problem, will remain "shadowy and formless" and "in eclipse" because the public, even before forming, can be easily drawn away to trivial matters such as "movies, cheap reading matter and motor car" instead of dealing with its problem (Dewey, 1927, pp. 142, 137).

What Habermas' public sphere concept could contribute to public journalism is that, while he viewed public formation differently from Dewey, he held that the public desired to engage in a debate over matters concerning it. Dewey identified communication, presumably through journalism, as the instrument that could transform a Great Society into a Great Community:

Intellectual instrumentalities for the formation of an organized public are more inadequate than its overt means. The ties which hold men together in action are numerous, tough and subtle. But they are invisible and intangible. We have the physical tools of communication as never before. The thoughts and aspirations congruous with them are not communicated, hence are not common. Without such communication, the public will remain shadowy and formless, seeking spasmodically for itself, but seizing and holding its shadow rather than its substance. Till the Great Society is converted into a Great Community, the Public will remain in eclipse (that is, unable to deliberate on its problems).

Communication can alone create a great community (Dewey, 1927, p. 142, parenthetical notes added).

The debate over general rules concerning the public which Habermas argued was seen by Dewey as one happening over a communication where the great society is transformed to the great community. This is summarized by Haas when he said “journalism and democracy are intrinsically linked, if not mutually dependent” (Haas, 2007).

F. The Internet and Public Journalism Prospects in the Online Sphere

The gradual branching out of journalism into different media in the previous century up to today has led the journalist from being the gatekeeper to becoming a conversationalist, in relation to his audience. It is reader engagement that is the “new mantra” of the journalist’s daily grind (O’Donnell, McKnight, & Este, 2012, p. 28). This is particularly most evident today in the Internet age, where online news readers “have relished the chance to comment on, add to, re-work, re-tell, and re-distribute stories published on online news sites, as well as creating their own news communities using blogs, social media and other digital tools” (O’Donnell, McKnight, & Este, 2012, p. 27). This change is but one of the many transformations that continue to redefine journalism, when societies across the world move from the primacy of “mass communication” media (television, radio, newspaper) to “convergent” media (the Internet or Web 2.0) (Tambini as cited in Choi, 2002; Deuze, 2003; Flew, 2009).

This disintegration of the primacy of the journalist as the sole determiner of what his audience *needs* to know has been extensively explored in the academe. More important to this study, the prospect of the audience – the public – benefitting from this evolution in journalist-audience relationship (or more aptly in the context of this study,

journalist-public relationship), as defined by the goals of public journalism as defined by Lambeth and Nip (2006), has also been explored, albeit not under the banner concept or “theory” of public journalism.

A government-funded journalism research in Australia found that only 25 percent of journalist respondents endorsed the idea that journalism is moving away from its traditional role to become a “living conversation,” with one editor-respondent saying that what journalists of this era need to achieve “is to move professional journalism more effectively into the immediate space, which is widely populated by the citizen journalist and the blogger. Journalists need to be much smarter and more effective in what they do in the online breaking news space” (O’Donnell, McKnight, & Este, 2012, p. 30).

This creation of a “living conversation” with journalism and its instruments at the center responds to one of Lambeth’s public journalism goals, namely, to “listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover” (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

The benefits of increasing reader-journalist interaction *online* through this “living conversation” include increasing reader confidence in the news organization through felt ownership (due to his contribution), reader-inspired content, better understanding of the readership, increase in the journalist’s sense of responsibility and community-building, which altogether become “the newspaper’s greatest asset,” according to the aforementioned government-funded research (O’Donnell, McKnight, & Este, 2012, p. 29; Diakopoulos & Naaman, 2011). All these are in keeping with the goals of public journalism.

Several writers concur to the idea that public journalism has its rightful, if not, better place in the online sphere (Nip, 2006; Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010; Mensing, 2010; Choi, 2002). Online journalism can be a distinct form of news media through having the characteristics of public journalism (Choi, 2002). For the record, online journalism can be defined as “the process whereby independent web sites and existing media companies such as newspapers and broadcasting companies release news to users through the Internet.”

Using the term *dialogical journalism*, Mark Deuze describes public journalism online in the following excerpt:

If this connective emphasis is still located within a closed journalistic culture, one could imagine journalism to become like a so-called Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) site, where online editors and reporters answer the demands of their publics by posting stories, backgrounds and annotated links in a FAQ-capacity. A more radical and democratic way of locating connectivity and an open culture in journalism would be dialogical journalism, where the contents of a news medium – for example, a (part of a) website – are fully maintained by journalists interacting with citizens... As such, this type of journalism may indeed come close to James Carey’s ideal of professionally amplifying the conversation of society and its citizens (The web and its journalisms: considering the consequences of different types of newsmedia online, 2003, p. 219).

While the description of Deuze of dialogical journalism fits most perfectly Joyce Nip’s typology of citizen journalism (Nip J. , 2006, 2010), it describes a relationship that very well exists under public journalism.

A case study of Korean online news outlets which said that “public journalism is not a technical effort that tries to construct a new convention of mass media but has goals such as a healthy democracy, making a network of local communities, and participation of the public in public life” reveals that “audiences make public opinion through discussions with other people, finding solutions, and forming cyber community, and then exert influence on government and political and economic institutions” through online news fora powered by the Internet (Choi, 2002). The Internet facilitates interaction, which is a fundamentally “important technical basis of forming public journalism” (2002, p. 24).

According to Merritt as cited by Choi (2002, p. 26), the ball lies in the journalists’ hands, that they should “try to open cyberspace to the public as a place where people from any social class can participate and discuss community issues.” This means that the initiative of public journalism online comes from the journalists, as it did in the former days in local print newspapers.

G. Synthesis

This present research sought to assess public journalism values in the 2013 midterm polls coverage of GMA News Online, *Eleksyon 2013*. Public journalism, arguably, has been discussed as extensively as possible by the researcher in this review of related literature. The following observations were made regarding it:

1. Public journalism is “a theory in search of practice.”
2. Public journalism was a concept originally executed through local, small-town newspapers in the United States, but the possibility of pursuing its goals through the new media, has been suggested and even explored.

3. Public journalism has changed the way journalists relate to its audience. In its earlier days journalists served as partners of citizens in their quest for solutions to problems; at present, journalists seem to ease their gatekeeping role by allowing their audience to participate in the production process and thus become conversationalists.
4. Recent literature regarding public journalism, as far as the researcher is concerned, has centered mostly on its decline and on how it can be revived through citizen journalism.

For this study, the researcher considered the term *citizen journalism* as an entity different from public journalism. While public journalism is “a theory in search of practice,” citizen journalism is “a practice in search of a theory” (Rosenberry & St. John III, 2010). The researcher used Nip’s typology as a clearer description of the relationship between public journalism and citizen journalism: that citizen journalism is one practice, “a form of audience participation in journalism,” that could help achieve the goals of public journalism (2006, p. 212). Also, the term *civic journalism* has been used interchangeably with *public journalism*, but the researcher universally referred to the form of journalism that seeks to help improve public life as *public journalism*.

With these things in mind, this research that assessed public journalism values in GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* coverage was guided by the following concepts learned in this review of literature:

1. Concepts of public and public sphere by Dewey and Habermas;
2. Goals of public journalism as enumerated by Lambeth and simplified by Nip;

3. Values of public journalism as discussed in literature by Rosen, Merritt and Friedland; and
4. The possibility of achieving the goals of public journalism using the Internet.

This research took cues from findings that “the news reporting of news organizations practicing public journalism differ in important respects from that of mainstream news organizations more generally” (Haas, 2007, p. 191). While GMA News Online is a singular news organization and the research objectives’ lean towards an analysis of a singular subject, namely, this organization’s coverage, the researcher hopes this endeavor will add valuable insight regarding public journalism, especially its place in the Internet.

CHAPTER III. STUDY FRAMEWORK

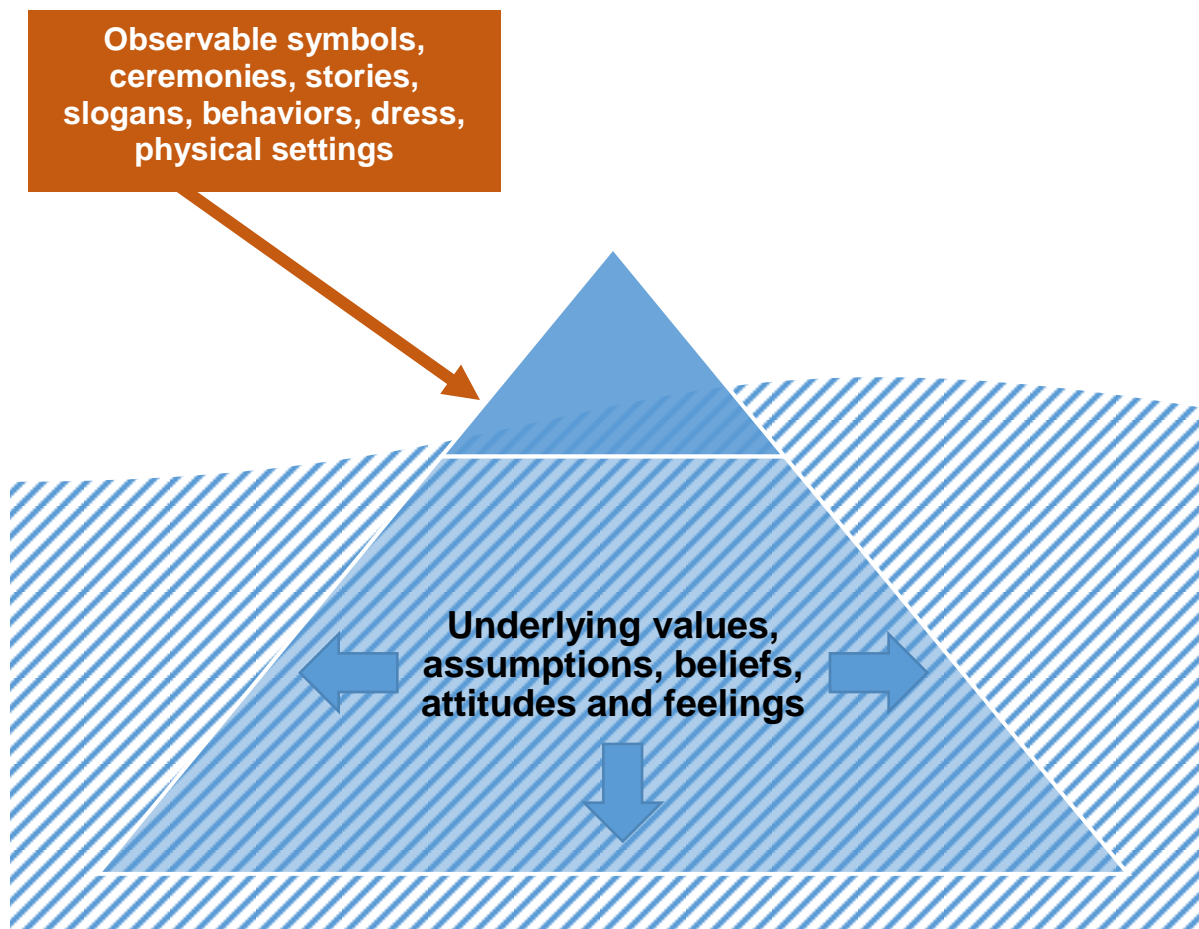
A. Theoretical Framework

Three theoretical models were used in this study, namely, Levels of Corporate Culture, Horizontal Structure of Organization and Selective Gatekeeping Theory. These are then integrated with elements of the philosophies that guide public journalism.

1. *Levels of Corporate Culture*

According to Daft (2004), organizational culture exists at two levels. On the surface – the tip of the iceberg – are visible artifacts and observable behaviors such as the way people dress and act and the symbols, stories and ceremonies organization members share.

Figure 3.1. *Levels of Corporate Culture*



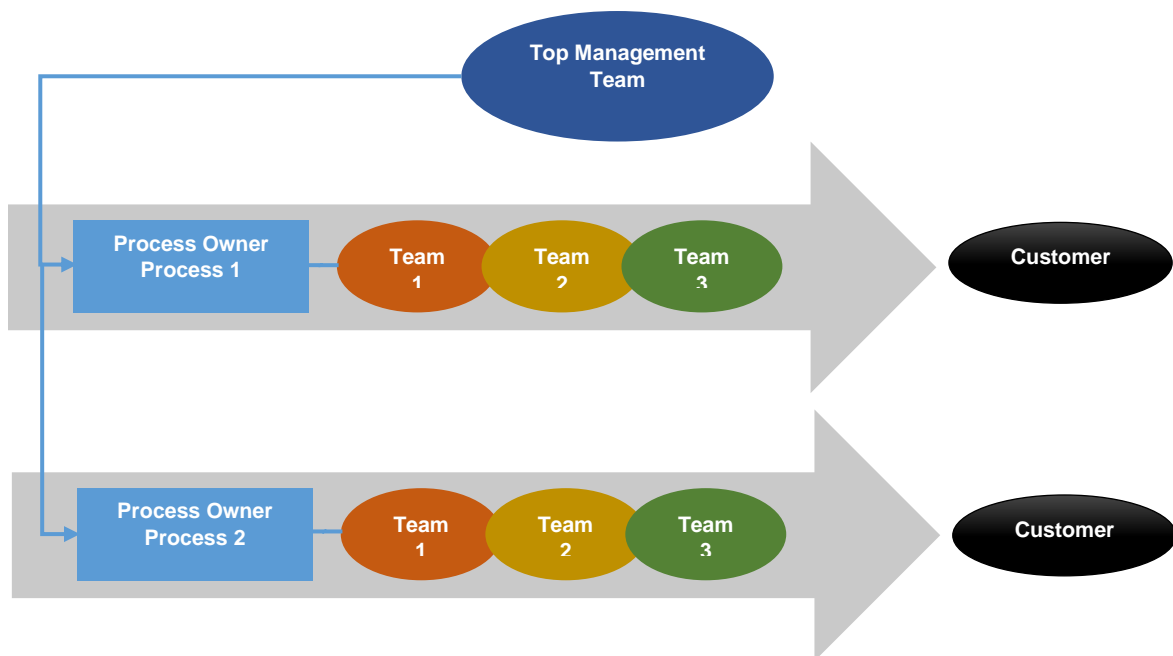
These visible elements, however, “reflect deeper values in the minds of organization members” (Daft, 2004, p. 361). The underlying values, assumptions, beliefs and thought processes are the true culture (Schein as cited in Daft, 2004). These display themselves in many ways but typically and eventually evolve into a patterned set of activities carried out through social interactions (Trice & Beyer as cited in Daft, 2004).

The researcher believes that in the same way, news organizations and their member journalists, editors and staff, much like any other organization, hold values, beliefs, assumptions and thought processes that manifest themselves in the way they cover and produce news and project themselves to their audience.

2. *Horizontal Structure of Organization*

Ostroff’s horizontal structure organizes employees in a certain organization around core processes (Daft, 2004, p. 110). A process refers to “an organized group of related tasks and activities that work together to transform inputs into outputs that create value for customers (Hammer as cited in Daft, 2004).

Figure 3.2. *Ostroff’s horizontal structure*



In a horizontal structure, the emphasis are not on narrow jobs as structured into distinct departments, but rather, employees are organized around core processes that cut horizontally across the organization and involve teams of employees working together to serve customers. The horizontal structure virtually eliminates both the vertical hierarchy and old departmental boundaries so that self-directed teams, not individuals, are the basis of organization design and performance (Daft, 2004, pp. 110, 111).

The researcher did not assume that GMA News Online as a news organization is structured horizontally. Rather, the researcher believed that this type of organization best shows how organizational values, specifically public journalism goals and values, translated into a project like the *Eleksyon 2013* coverage.

3. *Selective Gatekeeping Model*

According to McQuail, Galtung and Ruge's selective gatekeeping model shows gatekeeping "as a process of successive selections according to a number of news values or criteria which affect the perception of news events" (1993).

This quite differs from other gatekeeping models. Selective gatekeeping names and describes main characteristics of an original news event "which will influence its chances of being picked up initially and of passing the various gates of the kind described in the McNelly model" (McQuail, 1993).

Figure 3.3. *Selective gatekeeping model*

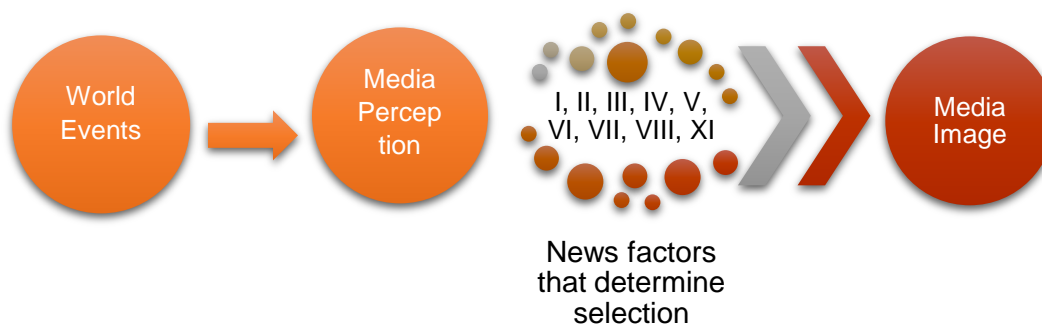


Figure 3.3 shows the process by which world events are converted by media organizations into a “media image” or picture of the world. “The application of the model to problems of explanation and prediction depends on a few basic hypotheses about the way in which these variables or ‘news factors’ alone or in combination affect selection and rejection,” as explained by McQuail (1993, p. 174), of world events: 1) timespan, 2) intensity or threshold value, 3) clarity or lack of ambiguity 4) cultural proximity or relevance 5) consonance 6) unexpectedness 7) continuity 8) composition and 9) sociocultural values.

The three main hypotheses about the joint action of these “news factors” are: 1) additivity, which states that the more news factors a given event is associated with, the more probable it will become news; 2) complementarity, which holds that if an event is low in one factor it might still be considered news if another factor compensates; and 3) exclusion, which states that an event that is low on all factors will not become news (McQuail, 1993).

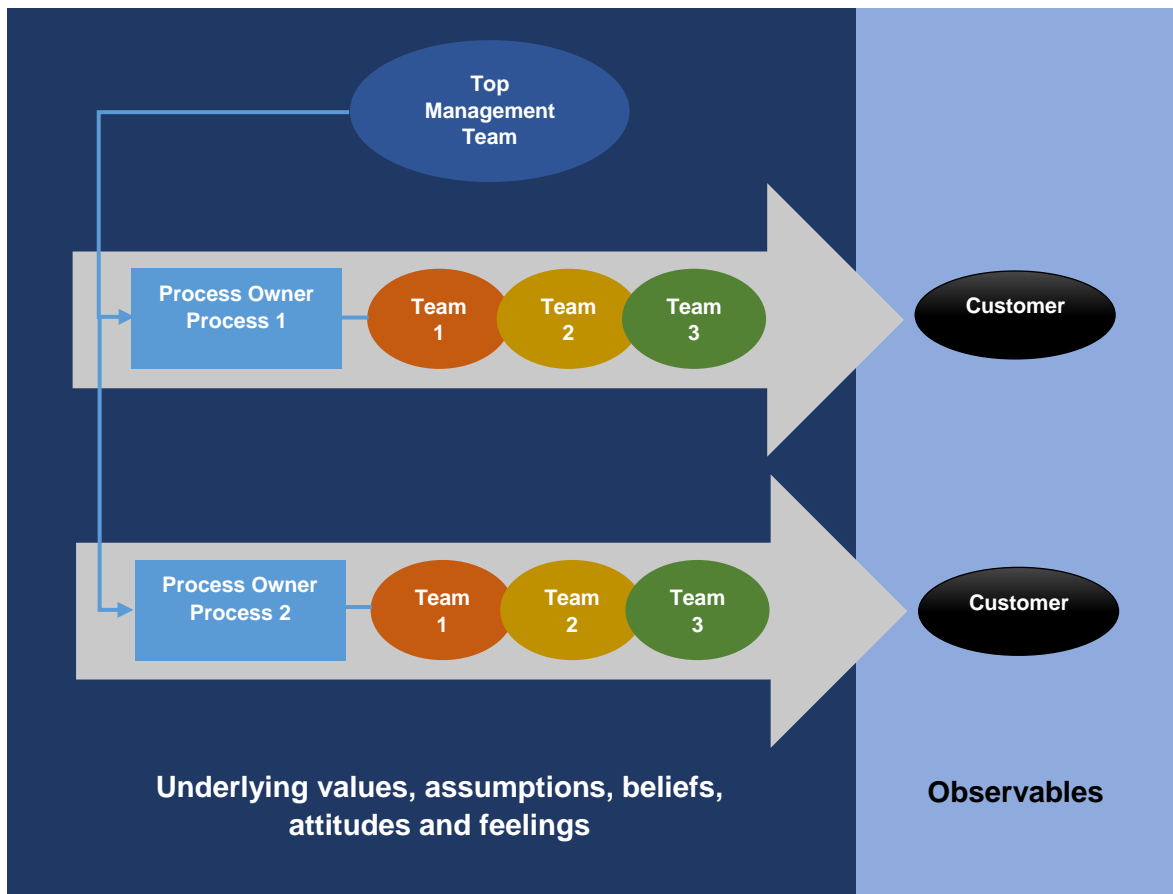
B. Integrated Theoretical Framework

Several elements of each model presented fit within the context of the researcher’s objectives and problems, and were adapted to formulate an integrated theoretical framework for the study.

The Horizontal Structure of Organization (HSO) was modified by situating it within the Levels of Corporate Culture (LCC) model. The processes and teams, including the top management team element were positioned in and together the underlying values element of the LCC model. The customers element of HSO was then integrated with the observable symbols element of the LCC. Thus, the dichotomy of the LCC is now made to

mean as separation between the organization and the customers, with the customers recipients of the products or observables of the processes and teams as guided by underlying values, beliefs and assumptions. Figure 3.4 shows this integration:

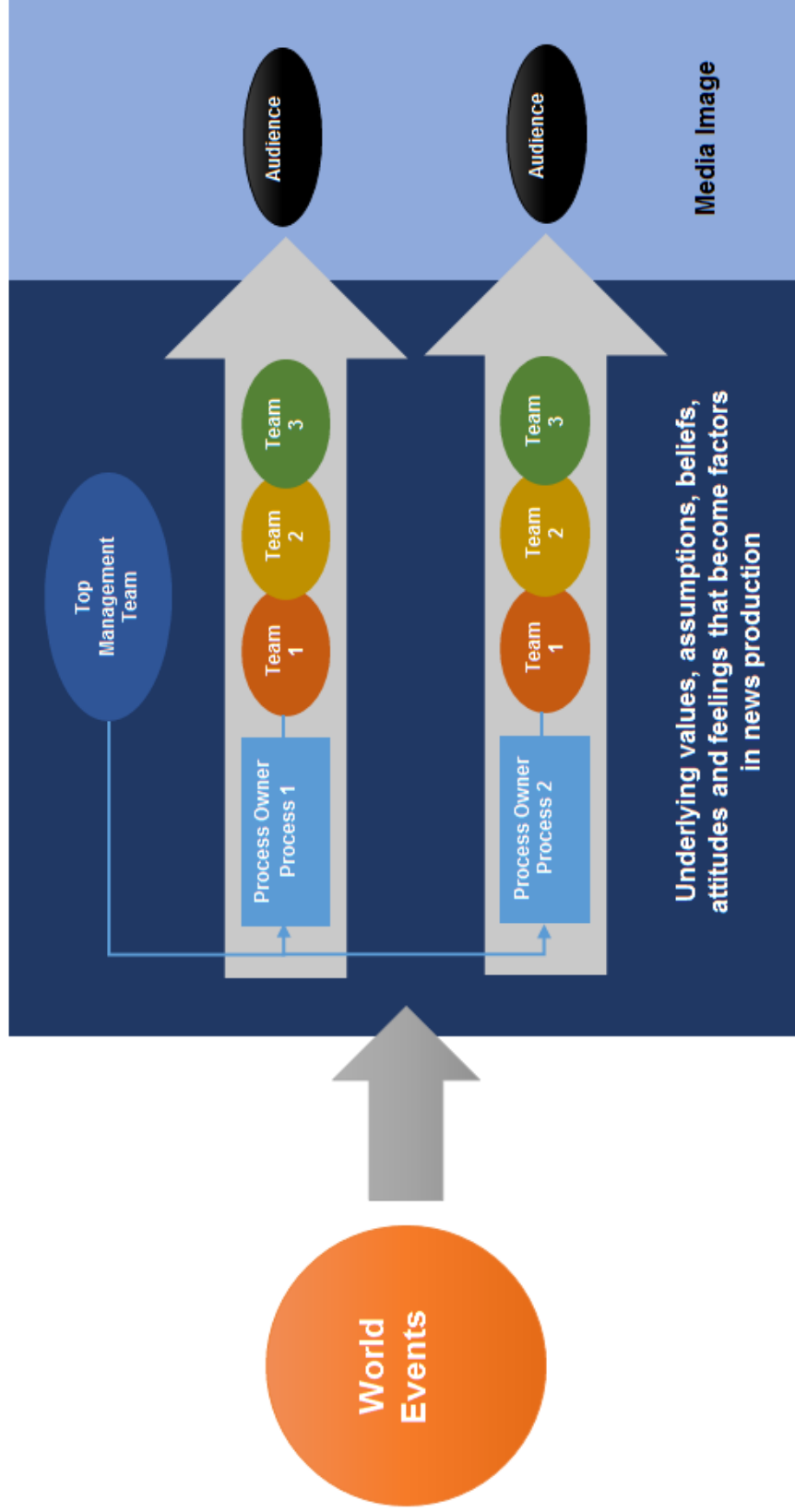
Figure 3.4. *Integrated Model: Horizontal Structure of Organization and Levels of Corporate Culture*



This model shows that the processes within the organization are guided by underlying values, assumptions, beliefs, attitudes and feelings of the members of the organization. The customers on the receiving end get products of the organization that can be considered as manifestations of the underlying values within the organization.

The final integrated theoretical framework assumes that the world events element of the Selective Gatekeeping Model is the first step in the process. The underlying values are adjusted so that they are considered as factors in the news selection process, reflecting the SGM. Observables element becomes the media image which the customers or audience receives. Figure 3.5 on the next page shows the final integrated theoretical framework:

Figure 3.5. *Integrated Theoretical Framework*



C. Integrated Conceptual Framework

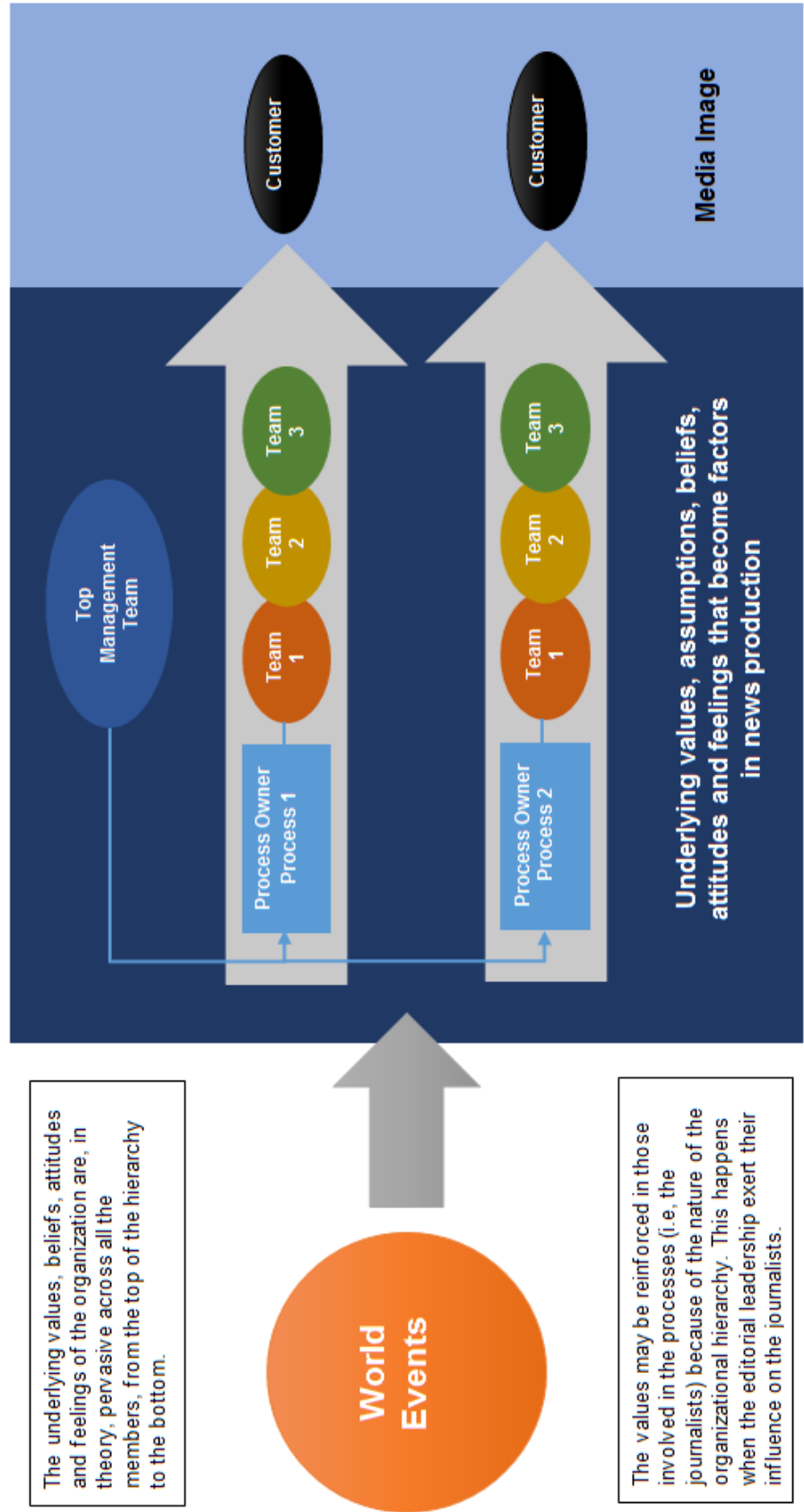
Figure 3.6 shows the Conceptual Framework used for this study. The diagram is mostly similar to the Integrated Theoretical Framework. It differs only because the concepts used in this research replaced the concepts originally contained in the three models discussed and integrated.

World events are processed by journalists into news stories (Gonda and Ortega, 2012). This is influenced by two main factors: the horizontal structure and the underlying values and belief system of the news organization. At this point it must be noted that these two factors are not independent from each other – the underlying organizational values maybe reinforced in the journalists' processing of the news stories when the editorial leadership, who, in theory, also holds the said organizational values, exert their influence in the news production process.

The news – which is *a* product of the process reflects the news organization's values. It is also the media image that the news organization projects and distributes. These values can be identified in the way the news were framed.

The proceeding figure shows the integrated conceptual framework:

Figure 3.6. *Integrated Conceptual Framework*



D. Operational Framework

The process as presented in the integrated conceptual framework shows how the 2013 national elections were presented by GMA News Online to the audiences as products or media images.

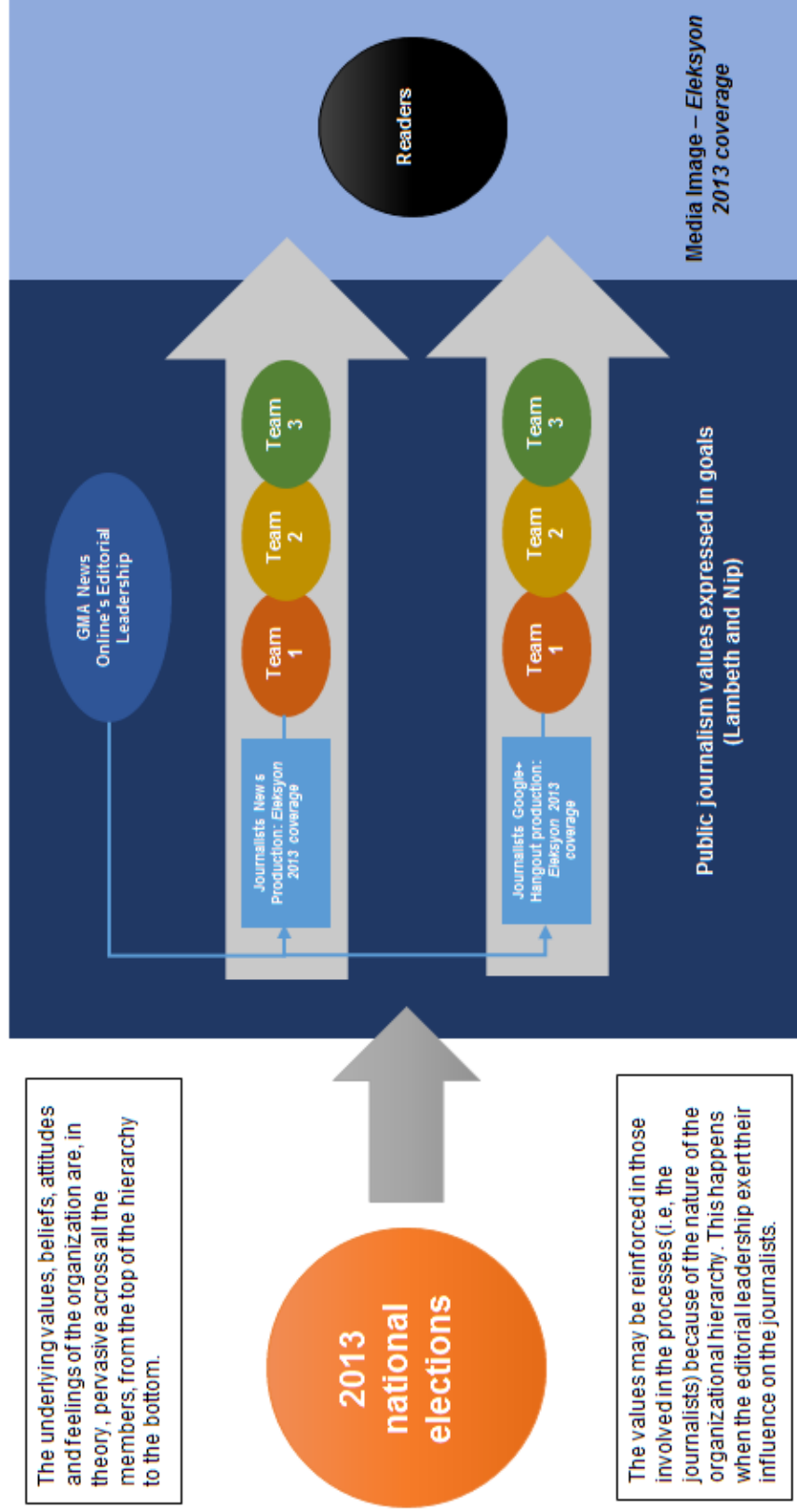
The underlying values and belief systems of GMA News Online are measured against those of public journalism, specifically those epitomized in its goals. The researcher adapted Lambeth's five goals of public journalism, as well as Nip's generalized goals for the operational framework: to connect to the community; to engage individuals as citizens, and; to help public deliberation in search for solutions (Nip, 2006).

These values were assumed to have had an effect on the way GMA News Online produced materials for their coverage of the 2013 national elections.

In this present research, the coverage *Eleksyon 2013* can be considered as the media image of GMA News Online. This media image is also the product that consumers – readers – consume in the receiving end.

Figure 3.7 shows the operational framework:

Figure 3.7. *Operational Framework*



E. Definition of Terms

1. **Editorial Leadership** – the managers of the newsroom who set the agenda of the news and guide the *journalists*, in theory, with the values of the news organization
2. **Eleksyon 2013** – the election coverage of GMA News and Public Affairs. It is archived at www.gmanews.tv/Eleksyon2013
3. **GMA News Online** – the online arm of GMA News and Public Affairs, self-described as the “Go-to site for Filipinos everywhere,” also referred to as the “news organization”
4. **Google+ Hangout** – the video conference service provided to users of Google and was used by GMA News Online in its E13 Hangout to facilitate discussions by ordinary citizens, journalists and experts
5. **Journalists** – the members of the newsroom directly involved in news and non-news production processes that deliver products to *readers*
6. **Media Image** – composed of the products delivered by the news organization to the readers and publics which also reflects the underlying, *public journalism values* of the news organization
7. **News story** – the stories on GMA News Online on Election Day
8. **Public journalism** – refers to the journalism movement started in the United States that aimed to help public life go well through journalistic instruments
9. **Public journalism values** – values expressed in public journalism goals and philosophies as enumerated by Lambeth, Merritt and Friedland, and

generalized by Nip: to connect to the community; to engage individuals as citizens, and; to help public deliberation in search for solutions

10. **Readers** – the consumers of news and other content of GMA News Online

CHAPTER IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design and Methodology

The study “Exchanges: An Analysis of GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013* Coverage Using Public Journalism Concepts and Values” employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods to provide sound answers to the objectives raised.

Specifically, the research used a model that blends both qualitative and quantitative methods called the *dominant-less dominant design* (Creswell as cited in Lee, 1999) where the dominant research tradition was a qualitative method supported by data gathered through a quantitative means.

“The major advantage of the dominant-less dominant design is its utilization of the unique strengths of one research tradition while capitalizing on selected attributes of the other,” said Lee (1999). The researcher acknowledged that the “multi-variate and multiprocess interactions, and context-specific methods” of the qualitative tradition will serve the research problem and objectives well (Lee, 1999). Furthermore, Lee argued that open-ended questions often employed in qualitative techniques produce categorical data. In making sense of these categorical data, quantitative methods might be handy (1999).

For the quantitative part, the researcher employed basic content analysis. This analysis consisted of identifying how many stories fit into certain categories and concepts created by the researcher. This basic analysis provided a systematic ground for the textual analysis.

Textual analysis, which represents the qualitative part and the bulk of the research design, is a methodology for researchers who want to understand the ways in which members of various cultures and subcultures make sense of who they are and of how they

fit into the world in which they live (McKee, 2003) “When we perform textual analysis on a text, we make an educated guess at some of the most likely interpretations that might be made of that text” (McKee, 2003).

In the context of this research, textual analysis is akin to what is called the pattern matching technique. In the pattern matching technique, an expected pattern among variables, events, acts or phenomena as dictated by the research problems and objectives must be specified before data gathering (Lee, 1999, p. 76). This presumed or expected pattern is derived from the theoretical or conceptual underpinnings of the study. The next step is to compare the expected pattern with subsequently constructed data.

For this study, the researcher used public journalism values and goals as measures and indicators for assessment. Relatively speaking, these could be considered as the patterns. Such measures and indicators are further discussed in the third subsection of this chapter.

B. Units of Analysis and Sampling

The researcher purposively sampled two videos from the E13 Google+ Hangout discussions. These can be viewed at www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013/hangout.

The first Hangout discussion, titled “Election day problems and resolutions,” was conducted on May 13, at 9:00 a.m. It is alternatively accessible at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dk1TtyhOEo and is 31 minutes and 15 seconds long.

The second Hangout discussion, titled “Overseas absentee voting,” was conducted on May 13, at 3:00 p.m. It is also alternatively accessible in YouTube, with the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YTAPVxIH_0. This video is 42 minutes and 28 seconds long.

The discussions contained in these videos were transcribed for analysis. The transcripts appear in the Appendix A of this study.

Similarly, the researcher purposively sampled all news articles that were published on Election Day, May 13, 2013 and have at least one comment as of accession on September 2, 2013. A total of 37 out of 73 articles published on May 13 were sampled. A copy of each article, corresponding comment threads and links to the original post in the Web, appears in Appendix B of this study.

C. Variable and Measures/Concepts and Indicators

In the content analysis, the researcher wanted to provide a systematic ground for further and deeper textual analysis. The researcher organized the stories, which were all election-related, into subgroups of more specific election-related news categories. This was done by analyzing the framing of the headline. Furthermore, identifying the dominant narrative (e. g., the lead) in each news story also helped the researcher decide on what category or categories, in some cases, the news stories fit into. In the analyses of the stories, the news category is the sole variable. The headline framing and the dominant narrative serve as measures.

Table 4.1 shows the concepts that were used by the researcher as a guide in the textual analysis of the news articles *and* the Google+ Hangout discussion transcripts that were sampled for the study. It also explains how the texts were measured vis-à-vis the concepts. The concepts were adapted from Lambeth's goals of public journalism (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) and the indicators were derived in part from Merritt's (1998) enumeration of some public journalism techniques.

Table 4.1. *Public Journalism Concepts and Corresponding Indicators*

Concepts	Indicators
Listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover	Avenues for discussion among readers were present
	Citizen-submitted comments have been storified
	Conversations between readers and journalists existed, so that the former saw news as more of a conversation than a traditional story
Examine alternative ways to frame stories on important community issues	Non-conventional framing have been used
Choose frames that stand the best chance to stimulate citizen deliberation and build understanding of issues	
Report on major public problems in a way that advances public knowledge of possible solutions and the values served by alternative courses of action	Mechanisms around issues and possible solutions have been discussed and reported on
Pay continuing and systematic attention to how well and how credibly it is communicating with the public	Responses to remarks made by readers regarding the work of the journalist have been made

Table 4.2 shows the specific framing concepts identified and measured by the researcher in the course of the study:

Table 4.2. *Public Journalism Framing Concepts and Indicators*

Framing Concepts	Indicators
Examine alternative ways to frame stories on important community issues	Framing that “situate readers as stakeholders” was used
Choose frames that stand the best chance to stimulate citizen deliberation and build understanding of issues	Framing with the most effective voicing (passive or active) so that the presentation of the issue is clear was used
	Framing that highlights the issue most relevant to the community was used
	Framing explains the mechanisms around the issue

The researcher also referred to and cited from GMA News Online's Comment Policy as an additional guide in interpreting texts that appear, specifically, on comment threads of the sampled news stories.

D. Data Construction

The researcher began constructing data on August 13, 2013 by downloading the Google+ Hangout discussion videos from GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* section. These videos were transcribed to be relevant in this research's context for textual analysis. On September 3, 2013, analysis began.

On the other hand, the researcher accessed GMA News Online's archive of news articles on May 13, 2013, Election Day. For the analysis, the researcher made a copy of 37 articles that were purposively sampled. Analysis, including basic content analysis, also began on September 3, 2013.

E. Scope and Limitations

This research was limited in several conditions.

First, this study was limited to assessing expressions of public journalism concepts and values in GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* coverage on Election Day. The researcher did not make any conclusions on whether or not this coverage as a whole can be considered as public journalism.

The researcher was also constrained to examine only a select number of materials. This is due to the enormous amount of articles and the length of video discussions that could possibly be analyzed for a study of this size.

Finally, this study was limited to examining only messages.

Conclusions made by the researcher do not represent any idea directly coming or directly derived from members of GMA News Online's newsroom.

CHAPTER V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of Data

GMA News Online published a total of 73 news articles on May 13, 2013, Election Day. These stories were published under a subsection named “Eleksyon 2013” on www.gmanews.tv.

Thirty-seven (37) of those articles had at least one comment posted by a reader as of September 2, 2013. Because analyses would require qualifying interpretations that relate news story to its comments, the researcher chose to sample these 37 articles. This purposive sampling is in keeping with the implications of the goals of public journalism to the study, specifically, how readers and journalists interact.

For preliminary observations, the researcher tagged these 37 articles into relevant categories that the researcher identified as **public issues**, namely 1) election operations; 2) election anomalies; 3) election-related violence and 4) candidates and rivalries.

In this context, the researcher tagged stories that report on the intrinsic operations and the problems relating to such operations as **election operations**.

Reports on violations on standing election-related laws such as the Omnibus Election Code, as well as externally-produced causes to problems in election operations were tagged as **election anomalies**.

Articles reporting on violence or threats of violence were tagged as **election-related violence**.

Lastly, stories that report on candidates, their poll standing and political rivalries were tagged as stories on **candidates and rivalries**.

Table 5.1. *Category/categories of sampled articles on GMA News Online on Election**Day*

CATEGORY/CATEGORIES OF SAMPLED ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON GMA NEWS ONLINE ON ELECTION DAY	
Category	Number of Stories
Election operations and problems	18
Election anomalies	8
Election-related violence	3
Candidates and rivalries	12

A total of 18 articles or 49% of the 37 sampled were stories related to intrinsic election operations and the problems that arose thereof. A total of eight or 22% of the 37 sampled were articles about anomalies and externally-induced problems to the election operations. A total of three or 8% of the sample size of 37 were election-related violence stories and a total of 12 articles or 32% of the 37 sampled articles were about candidates, their poll standing and political rivalries. Table 5.1 shows these data in tabular form.

It should be noted that there were three articles that were tagged under two categories. The researcher deemed the article “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled” as both an article on election-related violence and an article about candidates and rivalries, as is clearly cued in the headline through the words “mauled” and “supporters”. The resulting election-related violence emanated from a political rivalry:

In what could be seen as an extension of the violence that occurred there two weeks ago, four supporters of Taguig mayoral candidate Rica Tinga were hurt Monday after they were allegedly mauled by men identified with the local city government (GMA News Online, 2013).

On the other hand, the story “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls,” was also tagged as a story of both election-related violence and candidates and

rivalries not because of the cause-and-effect relationship seen on the previous article but because of direct reportage. The article contains a subsection called “Election-related violence” which is a five-paragraph report on some of the highlights of violence related to the midterm polls, although it’s worth noting that this subsection of the news is placed as the last part, deeming it as the least important in the context of the whole article.

The third article that was tagged in two categories was “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante.*” It was classified as an article regarding election operations because it reported on a problem regarding one of the processes during the polls, namely, identification of the voting precinct and eligibility to vote by the voter. It was also classified as an article regarding election anomalies because the disappearance of Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte’s name could not be warranted:

Sa kanyang Twitter account, ipinaalam ng opisyal ang kanyang pagkabigla nang malaman na wala ang pangalan niya sa listahan ng mga botante sa kanilang lugar.

"Came from the Makati COMELEC office.record says I didn't vote in 2 consecutive elections but I voted in 2010. How can that be?!" *nakasaad sa post ni Valte sa kanyang Twitter account.*

Ngunit itinanggi ni Valte dahil noong 2009 lang siya nagparehistro kaya tiyak siya sa pagboto sa nakaraang 2010 elections kung saan nanalong presidente si Pangulong Benigno Aquino III (GMA News Online, 2013).

The points of further interpretation, where the core issue of this research comes in, were in the expression of public journalism values such as but not limited to the

framing of headlines and the manner of reporting of the news articles. Each of the 37 articles were analyzed using Lambeth's goals of public journalism, Friedland's public journalism values described as "mental shifts" (Merritt, 1998) and Merritt's methods of public journalism (1998). These have been specified in Chapter 4 of this study.

Aside from these news articles, five Google+ Hangout discussions were produced by GMA News Online for its *Eleksyon 2013* coverage. Four were produced on Election Day, May 13, one was produced on May 14.

Google+ Hangout brings "your conversation to life with photos, emoji and even group video calls for free."³ It is a service available to Google+ users that allow up to 10 friends to create a video conversation that could be saved, published and shared after.⁴

Two of these Google+ Hangout discussions, *Problems and Resolutions* and *Overseas Absentee Voting* were transcribed and analyzed by the researcher for the purposes of this study. As with the measures and concepts used to analyze the news stories, analysis of these videos and their transcriptions used public journalism values.

The data construction will present first analysis of the news stories, and then analysis of the Google+ Hangout. The summary of findings are found in the next chapter.

B. Data Construction

1. Textual analysis: Stories published by GMA News Online on election day

Stories on election-related violence

a. Characteristics

Three stories were identified by the researcher as articles reporting on election-related violence: "1 dead in Sulu province poll violence; armed clashes noted in some

³ Accessed at <http://www.google.com/+/learnmore/hangouts/>

⁴ Accessed at <http://lifehacker.com/5816722/google%252B-hangout-is-the-best-free-group-video-chat-weve-seen>

towns,” “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled,” and “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls.”

The first two articles were easily identified as stories of election-related violence; the last one is mainly a political story with a short subsection on election-related incidences of violence.

Content-wise, the three stories share some similarities with regards to the election rivalry elements they contain.

The article “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls” is a political story by nature. Its headline immediately frames the article politically and gives a hint that the story is about the test of the president’s popularity expressed in the election of candidates he endorsed. It being an election-related violence story is contained only in a subsection and is just secondary.

However, it still stands out from the two other stories because it reported on an incident that is “not limited among candidates,” that is, it also reported on violence caused by NPA attacks.

The short report in the said article can be considered as more of a summary, when juxtaposed to the context of the whole article. It is a rundown of notable incidences across the country, with a citation of a figure from the Philippine National Police and a mention of the gravest and most reported incidents. With that said, the article connected political motives as either cause or probable cause of violence (Calonzo and Tan, 2013).

The same cause-and-effect relationship was also found in the other two articles. The story “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled” suggests this even in the

headline. The words “supporters,” “mayoral bet” and “mauled” hinted that the mauling may have been motivated by the fact that the victims were supporters of Rica Tinga.

Further in the story, it was explained that this incidence of violence could have been stimulated by a desire to hinder certain activities of the offended party:

"Dapat maglalagay kami ng table sa labas ng school para makatulong sa mga ibang botante na hindi nila alam ang presinto nila. Pero nung maglalabas na kami ng laptop, may lalapit na lalaki na kukunin ang laptop," said Limpasan (GMA News Online, 2013).

While the story “1 dead in Sulu province poll violence; armed clashes noted in some towns,” also reported on the cause-and-effect relationship between political rivalries and election-related violence, this has not been directly observed in the phrasing of the headline.

More specifically, this news article was presented mainly as a murder story by identifying the number of people who died and were injured. It then mentioned “armed clashes” in “some towns” as a secondary newsworthy event.

The cause-and-effect relationship observed in the first two articles was seen only in the lead of the article, as well as in the fourth paragraph of the story. Details show that some election anomalies, such as damaging of ballots and PCOS machines and illegal distribution of campaign materials, also happened in certain towns in Sulu. However, these do not have any bearing whatsoever on the violence angle of the story.

b. Framing

Framing is an important consideration in public journalism. Table 4.3 tallies the number of stories that exhibited framing concepts found in public journalism.

Table 5.2. *Framing of stories on election-related violence*

FRAMING OF STORIES ON ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Framing that “situate readers as stakeholders” was used	2
Framing with the most effective voicing (passive or active) so that the presentation of the issue is clear was used	0
Framing that highlights the issue most relevant to the community was used	1
Framing explains the mechanisms around the issue	2

Exactly this was observed in the articles “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled” and “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls.” While it can be argued with validity that the news values presented in both stories were conflict and prominence respectively, the stories also placed readers in the position of stakeholders by providing them information that would arguably have helped them make their election decisions.

For example, the story “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled,” while ridden with elements that make for conflict story, told of how the local government and the local candidates performed in the present circumstance, which was the elections. While it would not be possible to determine whether the author intended it to be, the reporting placed the readers in a situation in which they could decide as to what they would do with the information that was just handed to them. In this case, the information was the violence which was caused by a tense rivalry.

On the other hand, the article “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls” placed the readers as stakeholders by identifying with them even in the headline. However, this can be seen more clearly in two more ways.

First, the article tried to explain the ramifications of the political rivalry between the alliances of the president and the vice-president. This was done by getting input from political science experts. A quote from analyst Ramon Casiple attempted to explain the effects of an administration majority winning the polls:

“Double-edged sword ‘*yan... kung masama ang Presidente, lagot tayong lahat pero kung mabuti ‘yung presidente* [there will be a] a quicker passing of reform laws,” he said (GMA News Online, 2013, brackets by the article author).

While public journalism at its roots put lesser emphasis on the voice of the expert because the *vox populi* was suspiciously silent (Friedland, 2003), this problem was somehow negated by the presence of a commenting system.

In including summative reports on vote-buying and election-related violence, the author also made the story read more local to some readers, placing them as stakeholders in the issues.

It may not have been intended, but such angles would have incited a reader to comment about an election-anomaly he/she allegedly saw. The researcher believes that this story in particular was framed very effectively so that it inspired a discussion that was relatively meaningful.

In contrast with the two previously examined articles, the story “1 dead in Sulu province poll violence; armed clashes noted in some towns,” was framed mainly as a murder story. This did not place the readers immediately in the position of stakeholder, unless the murder’s ramifications would be explained.

Several information detailed in the article allowed for alternative framing, so that the reader could be better positioned as a stakeholder. For example, the article mentioned

that violence erupted *against* mayoralty candidate Munib Estino. Such framing that elaborates on the political rivalry in Panglima Estino town in Sulu, where Estino is running, impacts the local public affected. A political rivalry angle could be more relevant than a murder angle, in the context of the elections.

c. Comments

The mere presence of a commenting system, in a pervasive and orderly manner, is already an expression of a public journalism value – that of providing a way to “listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens” (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). Table 4.3 shows the indicators and the number of stories for each.

Table 5.3. *Public journalism indicators for user-generated feedback and number of stories that exhibited them*

PUBLIC JOURNALISM INDICATORS FOR USER-GENERATED FEEDBACKS	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Avenues for discussion among readers were present	3
Citizen-submitted comments have been storified	0
Conversations between readers and journalists existed	0
Responses to remarks made by readers regarding the work of the journalist have been made	2
Mechanisms around issues and possible solutions have been discussed and reported on	1

However, it should be noted that such systematic listening should incorporate interaction between journalists and their readers.

There are several comments made by readers that are striking, because they cited concerns regarding the information presented in the stories and the way they were written. In other words, they were concerned with the way journalists did their work.

The first was a comment made by reader with the username Jana:

Correction to below statement: In Omar town, some PCOS machines were damaged and ballots were splashed with water in an attack on a polling precinct there, Gaston said. This incident transpired in Panglima Estino municipality (particularly in barangay Tiptipon) and not in Omar, there was no incident of PCOS machines or ballots that were destroyed in Omar (GMA News Online, 2013).

This comment was made on the story “1 dead in Sulu province poll violence; armed clashes noted in some towns,” and is the sole comment to the story. It cited an alleged mistake made in the news report – that the incident of an election anomaly did not happen in the Sulu town reported in the story.

The second notable comment regarding the work of the journalist was made by reader 2ϕ. It is noteworthy because it remarked on the way the story “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled” was framed:

Animals maul. The journalist needs a dictionary (GMA News Online, 2013).

In this comment, the reader was not direct in stating his/her concern regarding the framing of the article’s headline. He/she was implying that the reporter’s use of the word “maul” was improper, noting that the context that such word must be used is with animals and not with humans. Thus, he/she suggested that “the journalist needs a dictionary,” presumably to aid in constructing better and more context-sensitive headlines.

In both instances, it is notable that neither the authors nor a moderator from GMA News Online took notice of the comments by replying. It implied that what the reader commented might not be true (or in the case of the comment by reader 2¢, the wording of the headling might have appealed to editorial tastes that it need not be changed) so that no update to the articles was needed. Or, it might also be that the comments were overlooked and therefore, no action was taken.

While both of these comments are very remarkable in terms of their substance and aim, it is also noteworthy that they are only two in their kind, at least in the context of the news stories in question.

Curiously, they were posted on two articles that can be considered as less newsworthy than the third article in the group, “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls,” in terms of prominence.

The above article received 14 comments, whose contents ranged from accusations of politically-motivated election anomalies to outright campaigning for senatoriables to what read like a violent reaction. These responses could be well-expected from an article that reports on a political matter.

Reader Juan Mendoza Jr. described the elections in his comment as “AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY!” This is echoed by reader Edward Alvarez, who pointed out *why*:

This election won't change a thing for the ordinary Filipinos because most of the candidates are members of the political dynasties and corrupt politicians. The Philippines will be the same corrupt country after today May 13th 2013 (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader ISRAELIT3S seemed to have wanted to give substance Juan Mendoza Jr.'s sentiments by citing some anomalies he/she allegedly saw:

They-comelec need to suspend *para* to give way *yung* vote buying *ni* nancy and others *para sa mga* late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay included at honasan etc.. (GMA News Online, 2013).

Other comments expressed emotional sentiments with regards to the elections.

Reader John Spencer expressed sadness when he said, in response to reader Edward Alvarez's comment above:

So true Edward. I'm watching this from the USA, and sadly it seems you're absolutely correct.....more of the usual. A shame, for pinoy's deserve better (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader alingscion, on the other hand, seemed to be expressing dismay in her comment:

the number of votes of nancy binay will reflect the number of votes for jejomar binay when he runs for president. why would people vote for nancy binay on her own accomplishments eh wala. in her own words OJT. .ano ito snap elections? (GMA News Online, 2013)

It is notable that again, there is no input from a moderator of GMA News Online.

But this was not a hindrance to participants in the thread to express their sentiments or even recommendations to solve the "problem" at hand.

For example, when reader KevinMcCalliste posted "Happy elections guys! Vote wisely! Vote for good senatoriables like Bam Aquino, Loren Legarda, sonny angara, grace poe and risa!," reader piskay responded "these are hypocrites my friend!"

Reader ISRAELIT3S however, implied that he/she would rather settle with what piskay tagged as hypocrites, than vote for some other who, he/she implies, are worse:

So sino gusto mo sila Binay honasan at si manong ernie na kalaro ko lagi sa resorts world? (GMA News Online, 2013)

Although no one in the comment thread mentioned so, the problem at hand appeared to be who to vote. The deliberative opportunity given by GMA News Online to its readers through the commenting system gave readers a chance to discuss the merits and demerits of different candidates, and hopefully, help them arrive closer to clearer and better decisions.

It was posited by the researcher that such opportunity for discussion is an expression of a public journalism value. However, without moderation, this opportunity has a propensity to produce low quality comments, or comments that could be irrelevant or lacking in substance. While the opportunity and the system is in place, it was noted that the productivity of the discussion, in public journalism terms, could turn into hit and miss. For most of the part, the discussion was arguably meaningful in the case of the article in question.

Stories on election anomalies

a. Characteristics

Seven stories were identified by the researcher as articles reporting on election anomalies: “*18 armadong lalaki na tauhan daw ng isang kandidato, nasabat ng mga pulis sa Davao del Sur,*” “Pampanga election official accused of pre-shading ballots in Guagua,” “PPCRV reports discrepancy in early tally,” “PPCRV reports pre-shaded

ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao,” “Sample ballots, campaign leaflets still being distributed at polling centers,” “UNA alarmed over pre-shaded ballots” and “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante.*”

Content-wise, it was notable that three articles in the category reported on the same specific election anomaly, namely, the pre-shading of ballots.

What stands out particularly was the source of the information that led to the reporting of these stories. For example, both “Pampanga election official accused of pre-shading ballots in Guagua” and “PPCRV reports pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao” cite the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) as the source of the reports, respectively:

Maria Victoria Dulcero, assistant director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Education and Information Department, said the report came from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting-National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections secretariat Fr. Kenneth Alde (Cayabyab, 2013).

Comelec citizens' arm Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting reported some cases of pre-shaded ballots and re-clustering precincts in Maguindanao without due approval from authorities (GMA News Online, 2013).

In the story “PPCRV reports pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao,” PPCRV was identified as the citizen’s arm of the Commission on Elections. In its website, PPCRV identifies itself as a “parish-based political but non-partisan lay movement” that “has been working assiduously for Clean, Honest, Accurate, Meaningful and Peaceful elections.”⁵

⁵ Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting website, <http://ppcrv.org/>

While such level of participation in performing watchdog functions has been regularly seen ever since the 1986 snap elections with the likes of National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), it is particularly commendable in the context of public journalism that in this particular election, traditional journalists such as GMA News Online, depend on what citizens report for news.

On the other hand, the story "UNA alarmed over pre-shaded ballots" had a different source of information, which was the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), one of the major political alliances vying for a majority in the senate.

The four other articles reported on varied election anomalies.

"18 armadong lalaki na tauhan daw ng isang kandidato, nasabat ng mga pulis sa Davao del Sur" reported on a violation of the gun ban, effected by the Sec. 261 of the Omnibus Election Code. Like most of the stories on election-related violence, this offense was also reported as politically motivated:

Sinasabing tauhan ng isang kandidatong kongresista ang mga nadakip na lalaki. Ayon sa ulat, isa ang Malita sa mga bayan sa Davao del Sur na may pinakamaraming botante kaya pinag-aagawan ito ng mga kandidato. (Cayabyab, 2013).

Aside from reporting about the violation of the gun ban, the story also mentioned incidences of PCOS malfunctions in the same province, Davao del Sur:

Samantala, nagkaberya ang botohan sa Daniel R. Aguinaldo High School sa Davao City matapos pumalya ang ilang PCOS machines.

Pitong presinto sa nasabing paaralan ang naapektuhan sa pagpalya ng mga makina ng PCOS. Gayunman, natuloy pa rin ang pagboto ng mga tao pero inilagay muna sa selyadong kahon ang mga baloto (Cayabyab, 2013).

The story “PPCRV reports discrepancy in early tally” on the other hand reported on the mismatch of the unofficial results in the senatorial race with the number of precincts that have already sent results:

"The figures, they don't tally with the number of precincts," said PPCRV chairperson Henrietta De Villa. She said their initial tally showed results from around eight to nine million votes, which correspond to an estimated five to six thousand clustered precincts. However, De Villa told GMA News Online that the poll watchdog had only tallied 1,418 precincts so far (GMA News Online, 2013).

As it turned out, the cause of the discrepancy was a certain script that caused the doubling of the figures that the PPCRV computers received (GMA News Online, 2013).

“Sample ballots, campaign leaflets still being distributed at polling centers” on the other hand was a summative story on incidences of the illegal distribution of campaign paraphernalia in some locations across the country. Most notably, the original reports of these incidences came from various sources and media.

The Caloocan City incidence of giving away sample ballots and the Cainta incidence of illegal distribution of campaign materials were previously reported by radio dzBB (GMA News Online, 2013).

Meanwhile, the report on a Marawi City incidence of children unlawfully distributing campaign leaflets was originally a post by GMA News reporter Jun

Veneracion on his Twitter account. This post was accompanied by a photo (GMA News Online, 2013).

Also included in the story was an explanation of the punishments for such violations. The report cited directly from Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code:

The provision states that any person found guilty of any election offense shall be punished with imprisonment from one to six years and shall not be subject to probation.

“In addition, the guilty party shall be sentenced to suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage,” the provision further states (GMA News Online, 2013).

The last story in the category, “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante,*” was a report on the strange disappearance of presidential deputy spokesman Abigail Valte’s name from the official list of voters, despite having participated in the 2010 presidential polls:

"Came from the Makati COMELEC office.record says I didn't vote in 2 consecutive elections but I voted in 2010. How can that be?!" *nakasaad sa post ni Valte sa kanyang Twitter account* (GMA News Online, 2013).

While delisting is a standard operating procedure for those who have not participated in two consecutive elections, according to Section 27d of Republic Act 8189⁶, Valte’s case was anomalous because it could not be warranted:

⁶ The Voter’s Registration Act of 1996, accessed at <http://www.comelec.gov.ph/?r=laws/RepublicActs/RA8189>

Ngunit itinanggi ni Valte dahil noong 2009 lang siya nagparehistro kaya tiyak siya sa pagboto sa nakaraang 2010 elections kung saan nanalong presidente si Pangulong Benigno Aquino III (GMA News Online, 2013).

Aside from Valte's case, COMELEC spokesperson James Jimenez's situation was also mentioned briefly. His case was legitimate delisting because he was not able to vote for the two consecutive elections immediately preceding this year's.

b. Framing

For the analysis of framing, the researcher identified the traditional news values for the group of election anomalies stories, as shown in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4. *Framing of stories on election anomalies*

FRAMING OF STORIES ON ELECTION ANOMALIES	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Framing that "situate readers as stakeholders" was used	4
Framing with the most effective voicing (passive or active) so that the presentation of the issue is clear was used	1
Framing that highlights the issue most relevant to the community was used	1
Framing explains the mechanisms around the issue	0

In public journalism, non-conventional framing, especially that which situates the readers as stakeholders in the story, is important. The researcher analyzed, among other story elements, whether the news value served by each story helped serve this purpose.

In the story "*18 armadong lalaki na tauhan daw ng isang kandidato, nasabat ng mga pulis sa Davao del Sur,*" (18 armed armed men identified with a candidate arrested by Davao del Sur police) the news was framed as a conflict story: 18 men were arrested

for bearing arms, which is a violation of Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code. The headline also highlighted the fact that these men were *allegedly* supporters of a candidate.

While the story was mainly conflict in nature, it did not fail to situate readers as stakeholders. The local scope of the story situates readers, especially voters from municipalities mentioned such as Malita in Davao del Sur who would be able to relate to the information presented and act about based from such information.

Interestingly, the name of the candidate, who ran for a position at the House of Representatives, was not identified in the story. Identification, if possible, would have had a greater impact on the decision-making process of voters who would be able to read the story.

While the incidence of pre-shading of ballots initially stood out to the researcher as the particularly impactful information in “Pampanga election official accused of pre-shading ballots in Guagua,” the story betrays this by the way it was framed.

The construction of the headline puts the Pampanga election official as the subject, with the accusation of the ballot pre-shading as the predicate. Thus, the main point of the story is not really the incidence of ballot pre-shading but that of a certain paid, government official performing the act.

This is supported by the lead of the article:

A member of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) has been accused of distributing pre-shaded ballots at a clustered polling center in Guagua, Pampanga (Cayabyab, 2013).

In this story, the readers or citizens were situated as stakeholders on two levels. This is especially true to those who are affected by it on the local scope, like the previous story.

On the surface, the fact that pre-shaded ballots have been allegedly distributed concerns the welfare of the citizens' political exercise, as names of certain *provincial* candidates have been chosen on their behalf:

The pre-shaded ballots covered the barangays of San Miguel Betis, San Juan Nepo and San Juan Bautista. They were shaded in favor of gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda, vice-gubernatorial bet Dennis Padilla and Guagua mayorial bet Ric Rivera (Cayabyab, 2013).

On a deeper level, the fact that an election officer who should be non-partisan in the performance of duties has been alleged of committing an election offense constitutes an instance wherein a reader, who might be voter, should be concerned with how the elections in the country are being conducted.

The researcher believes that the act of reporting these kinds of incidences incites readers affectively; the very purpose of journalism proposed by Rosen (1993) – to make democracy work – is achieved when journalists perform check-and-balance functions on the way elections are performed.

In turn, readers and citizens at large respond in different manners, one of which is by commenting or expressing their sentiments regarding the issue through the commenting system provided. Such is also a subject of this research.

Both these observations regarding the placement of readers as stakeholders in the issue presented in the news can also be seen, to a lesser degree, in the story “PPCRV

reports pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao,” although it suffers in the way the headline was framed.

Putting PPCRV as the subject effectively situates it as the main topic of the story, and its reporting of the incidences of pre-shading of ballots and reclustered precincts its main action.

However, it turns out that through such framing, the news story effectively becomes a report of a reporting. While such seemingly misguided framing would not be easily observed by casual readers, the researcher believes that this particular incidence is a practice of allegiance to the active voice that dampens the presentation of more significant issues.

In public journalism however, clarity with regards to the issue is important. Manner of framing and reportage are clearly areas of contention for Lambeth (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) when it comes to public journalism. In this very particular context, active voicing is not helpful in bringing lucidity to the main issues.

PPCRV, although a citizen organization, is arguably less immediate and newsworthy compared with the issues of ballot pre-shading and precinct reclustered. Thus, veering away from the conventional, the headline could have been framed in a *passive* voice to state the immediacy of the issues: “Pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts reported in Maguindanao.”

This inefficacy in the reporting is perpetuated in the lead:

Comelec citizen’s arm Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting reported some cases of pre-shaded ballots and re-clustering in Maguindanao without due approval from authorities (GMA News Online, 2013).

These errors are also true in another story, “PPCRV reports discrepancy in early tally.” While the researcher could only assume why these these headlines were framed this way as contact with GMA News Online is not within the scope of the present study, it is very possible that such framing puts more value to the news because of the prominence of the subject, PPCRV.

Curiously, passive voicing was used in the article “Sample ballots, campaign leaflets still being distributed at polling centers.” Although the argument could be that the doers behind the distribution were not as prominent as PPCRV, it does not negate the fact that in public journalism, non-conventional framing and manners of reporting must get into the way of traditional news values so that issues are presented to readers straightforwardly and clearly (Merritt, 1998).

While suffering with the same problem of active voice misuse, the story “UNA alarmed over pre-shaded ballots” was redeemable because the story has been effectively framed as not only a report of an election anomaly, but also that of a major political party being alarmed over it.

The prominence value of the story is in part an element in situating readers as stakeholders in the story. Politicking aside, UNA, the opposition bloc, represents a majority of senatoriables who ran during the elections. Any allegation or claims they made arguably had a bearing on how readers or citizens perceived them. Such is heightened by the fact that the news story mentioned a politically-charged information:

Tiangco did show of a video [that] allegedly showed one of the pre-shaded ballots. It had seven Team PNoy senatorial bets, three UNA, and an independent candidate shaded (Tan, 2013).

Apart from the incidences of pre-shading of ballots, the article also mentioned other anomalies that UNA was concerned about, such as defective PCOS machines and the discrepancy of the tally. In effect, the story was not a report on a singular incidence, as the headline somehow suggests, but really a report on the concerns of a major political party.

The last story in this group, “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante,*” was presented obviously as a prominence story. In terms of placing the reader as a stakeholder in the story, readers can think that the only way it does that is by being able to relate them to the plight of Valte. While that may sound too shallow, it does not betray the fact that unwarranted disenfranchisement is arguably one of the most prevailing problems on election day, at least according to GMA News Online’s own Incident Tracker⁷.

c. Comments

The comments made to the articles in this category concerns mostly sentiments on the issues presented on the stories, but also notably, remarks on the way the reports were written (e.g., the way journalists did their work). Table 5.5 tallies the number of stories for each corresponding public journalism indicator.

⁷ GMA News Online’s E13 Incident Tracker is accessible at <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013/incidenttracker>. The category “COMELEC admin problems,” where disenfranchisement and unwarranted delisting fall, amounts 1668 of all reported problems in the website.

Table 5.5. *Public journalism indicators for user-generated feedback and number of stories that exhibited them*

PUBLIC JOURNALISM INDICATORS FOR USER-GENERATED FEEDBACKS	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Avenues for discussion among readers were present	7
Citizen-submitted comments have been storified	0
Conversations between readers and journalists existed	0
Responses to remarks made by readers regarding the work of the journalist have been made	2
Mechanisms around issues and possible solutions have been discussed and reported on	3

Reader okpasau expressed an emotionally-charged comment to the article “*18 armadong lalaki na tauhan daw ng isang kandidato, nasabat ng mga pulis sa Davao del Sur*”:

hi-blood ako magbasa ng mga ganitong balita hahaha... bakit ba nagpapagamit ang mga to? at ito namang mga kandidato, kung totoong serbisyo sa bayan ang pakay, di na kailangan pwersahin o takutin ang mga tao para botohin sila kung talagang karapat dapat sila sa pwesto.. haaisssttt malinaw na pera ng bayan ang habol ng mga ganitong kandidato pag nakaupo na sa pwesto... besides u can help naman kahit di ka maging puliko eh, sabi ni Vic Sotto (GMA News Online, 2013).

On the other hand, reader Matt Cruz tried to explain why the political alliance UNA voiced out their concern over pre-shaded ballots, albeit, in a seemingly politically-motivated manner:

That's UNA does all the time. Reversing UNA and Team Pnoy/Liberals' real nature. Are they implying they can go better than 10-2 or 11-1? This kind of result only tells us that there are still a lot of uneducated, immature, blind Filipino voters, esp with regards to Nancy –Nasty (GMA News Online, 2013).

Readers ISRAELIT3S and reader okpasau suggested what government officials should do in the light of the issues presented in the stories. Reader okpasau wanted purported election law violators to be held accountable for their acts in his comment to the story “Pampanga election official accused of pre-shading ballots in Guagua”:

BEI chairman and members are liable for the entire voting process... dapat imbestigahan sila at wag pakakawalan pag napatunayan! once na may nakita silang irregularities bakit tinuloy pa nila pag distribute ng pre-shaded ballots? harap harapan na panloloko? (GMA News Online, 2013)

Reader ISRAELIT3S on the other hand sounded too extreme in his suggestion in the light of presidential deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte’s disenfranchisement as reported in the story “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante*”:

Nakuh, sibakin mo yan si brillantes palpak talaga yan eh (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader Rowe Naval in his comment to the article “PPCRV reports pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao” provided a user-generated report regarding the elections in his locality:

PPCRV volunteers are also political campaigners here in Baguio. Is that okey? I don’t think so (GMA News Online, 2013).

It is notable that this comment was made on an article that placed the subject, PPCRV on a positive light by reporting on an alleged election anomaly.

Two comments were made on the manner of the reporting, and these comments challenged the factuality of the information presented on the stories. However, there was no response to such comments by the writer or a moderator from GMA News Online. While the facility for feedbacks were provided, there was no evidence that such feedbacks were acted upon, an action that is vital in public journalism.

A guest commenter pointed out a correction on the article “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante*”:

Dear gma reporters, please note that james jimenez is not a lawyer, though he took up law in UST (GMA News Online, 2013).

On the other hand, another guest commenter requested to confirm the veracity of the information presented on the link provided by another reader, KernelDebugger Galingan (GMA News Online, 2013).

Stories on election operations

a. Characteristics

Eighteen stories were identified by the researcher as articles reporting on election operations: “Armless voter gets indelible ink on toenail”; “Comelec: 44% precincts have transmitted results”; “Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday”; “Comelec website down an hour after polling precincts open”; “Complaints of PCOS failures still tiny fraction of 78,000 machines”; “Election day brownout hit areas in NCR, other parts of the country”; “*Eleksyon 2013: Hitches and glitches*”; “Four polling precincts affected

by power interruption in Cavite”; “*Ilang PCOS machines, nagkaaberya sa araw ng eleksyon*”; “Marawi precinct reverts to manual polls due to PCOS glitches”; “Namfrel reports switched ballots, defective PCOS machines”; “Packed like sardines, voters struggle at QC polling center”; “PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day”; “Poll chairman: Problems with PCOS machines only ‘minor’”; “Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto”; “Smartmatic exec expects 200 to 300 defective PCOS machines”; “US embassy looks forward to ‘witnessing democracy’ in PHL”; and “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante.*”

For the purposes of analysis, the researcher further grouped these similar articles into relevant themes that they report on.

One report, “*Eleksyon 2013: Hitches and glitches*” attempted to collate in one article several stories that reported on “hitches and glitches” of the conduct of the polls on May 13. GMA News Online accomplished this using a Web service called Storify (GMA News Online, 2013).

Storify is a web service where “users curate the most important voices and turn them into stories.”⁸ Its vision is to amplify “the voice of people on the ground, living through events that resonate far and wide... so that we can understand our world.”⁹

This particular story is also an example of using information previously reported on other media. In it, posts from Twitter that also included pictures were gathered to present a sort of a photo essay. Reports included jamming of PCOS machines, illegal distribution of campaign materials and misdelivery of ballots (GMA News Online, 2013).

⁸ Accessed at <http://storify.com/about>

⁹ Accessed at <http://storify.com/storify/our-vision>

The researcher tagged five news stories under “operations at the polling precincts” group. These reported on notable happenings at polling precincts around the country, especially those that concerned voter treatment and voter-related issues such as looking for names in the official roll of voters.

The article “Packed like sardines, voters struggle at QC polling center” reported on the crowded situation in a voting precinct in Quezon City. It had a particular focus on senior citizens and disabled persons who had more difficulty in casting their votes due to the tight space (GMA News Online, 2013).

Interestingly, the story also reported a “lighter” side of the situation. This can be seen as an expression of what Friedland said, that journalism should be describing not only “what is going wrong [but] also [describing] what is going right” (Merritt, 1998):

Seventy-year-old Magdalena Datono was among the thousands of voters at the school who arrived despite her disability of having only one leg. Using a plastic stool with a thin cloth as cushioning, Datono fell in line with the rest of the voters. According to the report, she never missed an election, as television reports would always remind her of her responsibility to vote.

Other voters who saw her situation volunteered to carry her to the second floor, where she was allowed to vote ahead of others despite their having been there for hours (GMA News Online, 2013).

Aside from this very specific report, the story also cited a COMELEC resolution that sought to improve voting conditions for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Another story which followed up on the voting conditions for PWDs was “Armless voter gets indelible ink on toenail.” The highlight of the story was the personal

voting experience of Nelson Nuñez, a 49-year old PWD from Aparri, Cagayan, who had been marked with indelible ink on his toenail because he had lost both his arms in an accident (GMA News Online, 2013).

The article was another example of a “good news” that is encouraged in public journalism. Aside from Nuñez’s experience, several other anecdotes of PWDs voting and volunteering for the citizen watchdog PPCRV were also mentioned, including the one from the previous story.

On the other hand, the story “US embassy looks forward to ‘witnessing democracy’ in PHL” reported on election observation conducted by United States Embassy in Manila. It was notable because its only source of information was tweets by US Ambassador to Manila Harry Thomas Jr., and US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Brian Goldbeck. Such tweets were not only cited but also included as inserts in the story (GMA News Online, 2013).

The stories “*Valte, ‘di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante,*” and “Comelec website down an hour after polling precincts open” both reported on incidences regarding the official roll of voters.

The first story, which was also analyzed as a story of an election anomaly, was a report on the strange disappearance of presidential deputy spokesman Abigail Valte’s name from the official list of voters (GMA News Online, 2013).

The second story on the other hand, was a brief report on the state of Comelec’s website in the morning of election day (GMA News Online, 2013). This affected the precinct finder service of COMELEC, that has already been plagued with a problem before:

The website contained the precinct finder which shows the precinct details of voters.

GMA News Online earlier reported that the precinct finder generates the wrong location via Google Maps for some registered voters (Cayabyab, 2013).

Although its brevity might be mistaken for insignificance, reporting such seemingly small details as the breaking down of a website is a form of a public service announcement (PSA), which would be helpful especially to voters.

The next group of stories was about the transmission of results and canvassing.

Both “Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday” and “*Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto*” reported on the suspension of the canvassing of results that have already been transmitted. The premise of each, however, are quite different.

In “Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday,” the article matter-of-factly reports that the National Board of Canvassers formed by the COMELEC suspended their session on “Monday evening and will resume at 10 in the morning Tuesday” (Legaspi and Geronimo, 2013). Details regarding the suspension of the canvassing, why it happened and what it is, was included in the relatively long news report. Aside from these, information about the unofficial count of PPCRV and the convention of the National Board of Canvassers was also given (Legaspi and Geronimo, 2013). In one sense, this article reported *information*.

On the other hand, the comparatively short “*Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto*” can be seen as an article that

reported a *reaction*, that is, reaction to the fact that was reported in the previous article (GMA News Online, 2013).

Notably and again, his reaction was lifted from his Twitter post, effectively using his tweet as the main source for the news:

Sa pamamagitan ng kanyang Twitter account, kinuwestiyon ng Kapuso host na si Raymond Gutierrez ang pagpapaliban ng national canvassing ng National Board of Canvassers (NBOC) sa pagbilang ng mga boto (Twitter insert):

Raymond Gutierrez @mondgutierrez

Why would “rest” be the main reason for postponing the canvassing? They know very well that many things can happen overnight. #strange :/ (GMA News Online, 2013).

His reaction can be considered as negative since the headline used the Filipino verb ‘*pinuna*’ which is equivalent to ‘criticized.’ This can be warranted by the content of the story as well as Gutierrez’s tweet.

In “Comelec: 44% precincts have transmitted results,” reported an update to the the transmission process that commenced when voting precincts closed by 7:00 p.m. on May 13:

Around 34,725 clustered precincts have transmitted their results as of 9:15 p.m., registering 44.2 percent of total precincts nationwide, the Commission on Elections said late Monday (GMA News Online, 2013).

The story also made a clarification regarding an alleged “speculation”:

Also, she (COMELEC Commissioner Grace Padaca) denied speculation that the Comelec was reporting the transmission status to quell public fears on a

transmission discrepancy. "I've been tweeting kanina pa," Padaca explained (GMA News Online, 2013).

Most of the articles that the researcher identified as stories on election operations were subcategorized under election paraphernalia. These stories mostly reported on precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines, as well as ballots.

Two articles reported virtually the same story – that of PCOS machines malfunctioning early on the election – but only in different languages. “*Ilang PCOS machines, nagkaaberya sa araw ng eleksyon*” is the Filipino version of “PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day.” The researcher identified the latter as the original as it was the article that was updated later on election day (Medina, 2013).

Both reports detailed “high-profile” instances of PCOS machine failure – that is, the precinct where machines broke down affected the casting of votes of some prominent politicians (Medina, 2013).

These politicians include President Benigno S. Aquino III, who voted in Tarlac and Senators Manny and Cynthia Villar, who casted their ballots in Las Piñas:

Samantala, sa Las Piñas, nasa harapan na ng pila sina Senator Manny Villar at ang asawa niyang si Cynthia, na tumatakbo sa pagka-senador, nitong Lunes ng umaga nang masira ang PCOS machine. Nanumbalik ang operasyon nito matapos ayusin ng Comelec technician (Medina, 2013).

Aside from these incidences the story also included similar reports that, as with previously discussed stories, were initially gathered and reported in different media.

These include GMA reporter Lia Mañalac-del Castillo’s report of a PCOS machine in Pampanga, which failed to receive more ballots after feeding ten, as well as

Jiggy Manicad's story on explosions at Maguindanao. Interestingly, both stories concluded by mentioning the Maguindanao Massacre that happened in 2009. Also included was a report by dzBB's Glen Juego, about several voters complaining of delisting in Marikina City (Medina, 2013).

A story that was related to the previous virtually identical stories was "Namfrel reports switched ballots, defective PCOS machines." It was categorically related because it also reported on PCOS malfunctioning early on the election day:

Just a few hours after voting started Monday, Election Day, reports of switched ballots and vote-counting machines that were either missing or malfunctioning have reached a citizens' arm group of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) (GMA News Online, 2013).

Aside from PCOS malfunction the story also reported switched ballots, which practically disenfranchised voters of affected precincts (GMA News Online, 2013).

What is remarkable with the story was that it was sourced from a citizen watchdog group, the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) (GMA News Online, 2013).

Whereas the previous stories discussed mainly problems with PCOS machines, "Marawi precinct reverts to manual polls due to PCOS glitches" reported about the regressive nature of the polls there, although this is due to PCOS machine failures (GMA News Online, 2013).

The remaining stories on this subcategory were identified by the researcher as attempts to *negate* or *normalize* the claims of the other stories.

The first, more neutral story, was “Smartmatic exec expects 200 to 300 defective PCOS machines.”

In this article, the provider of PCOS machines Smartmatic, through executive Cesar Flores, said that encountering problems in an automated elections is “intrinsic”:

"Throughout the day, we will reach 200 or 300 (replacements). Of course, it's uncomfortable. If that happens, everybody would feel that the precinct is collapsing. But that's more or less the nature of an automated elections in any country," said Cesar Flores in a chance interview at the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) national canvassing center (GMA News Online, 2013).

Another story “Complaints of PCOS failures still tiny fraction of 78,000 machines,” also tried to normalize the PCOS failures situation by stating that “the total number of malfunctioning voting machines may still end up being a tiny, acceptable fraction of the 78,000 machines nationwide” (Dimacali, 2013).

What is remarkable with the story is its citing of “crowdsourced”¹⁰ information, or citizen-generated reports through GMA News Online’s *Eleksyon 2013 Incident Tracker*¹¹:

The breakdown of complaints fielded by the *Eleksyon 2013 Incident Tracker* as of 4 p.m. were as follows:

- Comelec admin problems: 1,240
- PCOS machine problems: 1,063
- Cheating attempts 498

¹⁰ According Jeff Howe of Wired Magazine, *crowdsourcing* “represents the act of a company or institution taking a function once performed by employees and outsourcing it to an undefined (and generally large) network of people in the form of an open call.”

¹¹ Accessible at <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013/incidenttracker>

- Other violations: 368
- Brownout and other infrastructure problems: 196
- Violence and intimidation: 168
- Others: 2,704 (Dimacali, 2013).

This sourcing of information from citizen reports is an instance of citizen journalism, but also an expression of listening “systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover” (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

The last story in the subcategory election paraphernalia was “Poll chairman: Problems with PCOS machines only minor.” This story, unlike the previous two being *normalizing* or *neutralizing*, sounded *defending*, with COMELEC Chairman Sixto Brillantes saying “some reports are blown out of proportion *lang*” (Legaspi, 2013).

While it was never mentioned nor implied, the researcher believes that reporting this type of statements from authorities was an expression of informing the readers of how things could go right (Merritt, 1998). Unfortunately, the bulk of the story enumerated instances of election operations failures concerning paraphernalia (Legaspi, 2003).

The last subcategory was stories on power interruptions. These two stories reported on local loss of electricity that has affected the casting of votes.

“Election day brownout hit areas in NCR, other parts of the country” reported on various electricity shortage across the country but detailed the power deficit in Mindanao which has ensued even before the election day (GMA News Online, 2013).

This story was also particularly remarkable because it also went to detail the contingency measures that agencies such as COMELEC, the Department of Energy and

the National Grid Corporation formulated in the event of power outages (GMA News Online, 2013).

Also, while the tone of the story is bleak, it did not fail to ease such bleakness by mentioning the fact that measures to ensure that power will be sustained on election day was observed:

The Election Power Task Force, where the DOE is a member, expressed gratitude to major mall chains for heeding its call to reduce power demand on Election Day (GMA News Online, 2013).

Such citation, even in passing, is commendable in public journalism, where reporting of things that went right is as important as things that have gone wrong (Merritt, 1998).

On the other hand, “Four polling precincts affected by power interruption in Cavite,” while also explaining in detail power outages and contingency measures like the preceding story, went on to further explain the reasons for the outages:

The Energy department was quick to assure the public that the power outages were not supply-related.

“Di natin maiiwasan na magkaroon ng local problems. But it's not a supply problem, it's not a power generation problem. It's normal, yung dynamism of the system,” Exconde said.

As of 1:00 p.m., Luzon has an available capacity of 9,071 megawatts, peak demand of 5,490 MW and power reserve of 3,581 MW.

Visayas has an available capacity of 1,795 MW, peak demand of 1,066 MW, and power reserve of 729 MW.

Mindanao has an available capacity of 1,097 MW, peak demand of 918 MW and power reserve of 169 MW (Rivera, 2013).

This is important because it reported on an arguably major public problem that could potentially wreck failure on the elections in a way that advances public knowledge of the situation and solutions (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

Aside from this, the news story also included several hotlines for power related concerns on election day (Rivera, 2013). This caused the involvement of readers and citizens at large by informing them how to, which, according to Merritt (1998), “begins to define a community.”

b. Framing

Framing can make or break a news story’s ability to make the issues more immediate to the readers and its propensity to move them to speak out and discuss on possible solutions to such issues (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). As such, it is one of the most important aspects to consider when it comes to journalism (Merritt, 1998).

The researcher identified the framing indicator that the stories in this category expressed. This is shown in Table 5.6:

Table 5.6. *Framing of stories on election operations*

FRAMING OF STORIES ON ELECTION OPERATIONS	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Framing that “situate readers as stakeholders” was used	9
Framing with the most effective voicing (passive or active) so that the presentation of the issue is clear was used	1
Framing that highlights the issue most relevant to the community was used	3
Framing explains the mechanisms around the issue	4

It was notable that most of the stories had impact as news value. Although not deliberately identified in any literature reviewed, the researcher believes that framing a story so that it would reflect the news value impact has the propensity to lead readers to discussion of possible solutions to such issues, a goal of public journalism (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). Accordingly, the researcher also holds that such framing leads journalists to write more openly and deeply about the machinations around an issue, so that it joins in the “broader mission of helping public life go well” as well as in moving “from detachment to being fair-minded participants in public life” (Friedland as cited in Merritt, 1998).

With that said, the researcher identified “Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday” as an impact story, precisely because it did not merely reported on the actual act of suspension but also an explanation of why and how (Legaspi and Geronimo, 2013).

However, the headline would initially exude a negative tone, with the use of the word “suspend.” While this must have been unavoidable for the sake of faithfulness and clarity in reporting, the reportes could have moved upward in the inverted pyramid the

details that explained that suspension is a “normal procedure,” and that those involved in the canvassing needed “a little rest” (Legaspi and Geronimo, 2013).

While that could be taken as a neutralization of the negative connotation of the act of suspension, the researcher believes that it would not really prevent readers, prominent and ordinary alike, to air their concerns regarding suspension. Instead, such alternative framing could build a better understanding of the issue, at the same time, stimulating deliberation (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

A story that reported a reaction to the preceding news was “*Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto.*” Clearly, it was framed as a prominence story, with a celebrity host as the subject and his criticism as the action of the headline (GMA News Online, 2013). Such framing did attract comments from readers, but mostly reactions to the subject’s actions not the more pressing and election-relevant concern, the suspension itself. This will be discussed further in the comments section below.

“Comelec website down an hour after polling precincts open” was also identified as an impact story. However, the headline would not immediately reveal such because the actual impact of Comelec’s website breaking down would only be implied in the second paragraph of the story:

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) website was down just an hour after the polling precincts nationwide opened at 7 a.m.

The website contained the precinct finder which shows the precinct details of voters (Cayabyab, 2013, emphasis added).

The stories “Complaints of PCOS failures still tiny fraction of 78,000 machines” and “Smartmatic exec expects 200 to 300 defective PCOS machines” both address the same issue but in different manners.

Headline-wise, the former story built negating relationships between the subject and the qualifier. The plural “complaints,” a negative term, was neutralized or contained by the phrase “still tiny fraction.” This thus reduced the impact of “PCOS failures” in a helpful way by not blowing out of proportion the issue. This is important so that a good understanding of the problem is initiated (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

The latter story, “Smartmatic exec expects 200 to 300 defective PCOS machines” also placed the problem in perspective, at least when the readers know that there were about 78,000 PCOS machines deployed on election day (Dimacali, 2013). Otherwise, the headline was constructed so that it impresses upon the reader that the article would report a statement of a key stakeholder of the elections.

The same is true for “Poll chairman: Problems with PCOS machines only ‘minor.’” The headline was framed with a statement by a prominent person in mind.

However, given the details of the report, especially COMELEC Chairman Sixto Brillantes’ statement regarding reports being blown out of proportion (Legaspi, 2013) a more responsible headline would have been something that acknowledged such. For example: “Poll chairman: Problems with PCOS machines only ‘minor,’ reports ‘blown out of proportion.’” While such structuring might be tantamount to admitting that the news organization might be part of the problem, it expresses faithfulness to giving attention to how well the news organization is communicating with the public, as advocated by Lambeth (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

The stories “*Ilang PCOS machines, nagkaaberya sa araw ng eleksyon*” and “PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day” were identified by the researcher as virtually identical in terms of content and arrangement of ideas. Aside from the language used, the framing of the respective headlines are different, however.

In the English version, the question of *when* was answered more specifically in the headline. The structure was passive, whereas in the Filipino version, the headline used an active voice (Medina, 2013; GMA News Online, 2013).

While the implications of these are not immediately readable, the researcher believes that effective reporting with public journalism in mind is careful with the way the news is presented (Merritt, 1998). The Filipino version of the story concerns actual PCOS machines as subjects, vis-à-vis PCOS machine *glitches* on the English one. Editorial judgment surely have something to do with this but the Filipino version should lead for a more straightforward, if not better understanding (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) of the issue at hand.

The researcher identified “Comelec: 44% precincts have transmitted results” as a timeliness story because of the volatility of the topic at hand. Nevertheless, this story did not fall short when it came to situating the public as a stakeholder of the report (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006; Merritt, 1998), because it was rightly identified that transmission and presentation of results were public concerns:

[Commissioner Grace Padaca] denied speculation that the Comelec was reporting the transmission status to quell public fears on a transmission discrepancy. “I’ve been tweeting kanina pa,” Padaca explained (GMA News Online, 2013).

The story “Marawi precinct reverts to manual polls due to PCOS glitches” was identified as a proximity story, because of its localized relevance. However, this did not betray the fact that the propensity of the issue presented, namely, going back to manual polls due to PCOS glitches, to be relatable to non-locals is due to the nature of the issue itself:

One precinct in Marawi City in the province of Lanao del Sur was forced to revert to manual voting after the two Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines there failed to work, a television report said Monday (GMA News Online, 2013).

This was also the case with “Four polling precincts affected by power interruption in Cavite.” While slightly bigger in scope, the proximity value was present so that on the surface, the impact of the issue presented would not very much appreciable. The construction of the headline betrayed the overall content of the story, but it is precisely because of the latter that the headline was deemed inefficient.

To build a better understanding of the issue (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006), the author should have crafted a more general headline and lead, covering the actual scope of the whole story that heavily mentioned power problems in Mindanao, Southern Luzon and Metro Manila. The lead was constructed as this instead:

Heavy rain has affected electricity in at least four polling centers in Cavite province, the Department of Energy (DOE) said on Monday afternoon (Rivera, 2013).

The same problem is evident in the story “Packed like sardines, voters struggle at QC polling center,” although in a much lesser extent. This was not because of the premise of the article but local scope news, but more than half of the article focused on

voting conditions for the disabled (GMA News Online, 2013), so that the subreport can stand on its own. While the intentions of the author might have been good, for the sake of clarity and understanding of the issue (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) this seemingly small issue could also be corrected.

A story that arguably answered to this problem of focus was “Election day brownouts hit areas in NCR, other parts of the country.” Although some emphasis was given to Metro Manila, particularly Taguig, information was sufficient enough to warrant a clear understanding of the news through the headline (GMA News Online, 2013):

The NGCP said Mindanao may have a system capacity of 1,151 megawatts throughout the day, but the peak demand may be 1,174 megawatts in the morning, 1,159 in the afternoon, and 1,222 in the evening.

Such figures may translate to a deficit in gross reserves of 23 megawatts in the morning, 8 megawatts in the afternoon, and 55 megawatts in the evening, the NGCP said.

However, for Luzon and Visayas, the NGCP indicated enough reserve power, including 2,186 megawatts for Luzon and 390 megawatts for Visayas as of 6 a.m. Monday.

The NGCP's 6:00 a.m. power situation outlook indicated a system capacity of 8,815 megawatts for Luzon, with demand likely to peak at 6,629 megawatts.

In Visayas, the NGCP said the power outlook indicated a system capacity of 1,764 megawatts and a likely peak demand of 1,374 megawatts (GMA News Online, 2013).

“Armless voter gets indelible ink on toenail” is related to “Packed like sardines, voters struggle at QC polling center” in terms of issue discussed. The news value, oddity, does not come off as unhelpful when it comes to putting the readers in the position of stakeholder (Merritt, 1998). Also, while the oddity might border on sensationalism, a journalistic tool that hinders public journalism values, the discussion of the problems of persons with disabilities in casting their votes and the proceeding detail on efforts to respond to such problems (GMA News Online, 2013) negates it.

The headline of the story “*Eleksyon 2013: Hitches and glitches*” was appropriate for its content and the researcher saw no issue public journalism-wise, as well as the story “US embassy looks forward to ‘witnessing democracy’ in PHL.” However, one can only guess hard on the how the ordinary citizen can be placed as a stakeholder in this article, because it reports too generally about the elections:

The United States Embassy in Manila on Monday said it is looking forward to "witnessing democracy" in the Philippines as Filipinos cast their votes in the May 13 midterm election (GMA News Online, 2013).

The last article in this category was “Namfrel reports switched ballots, defective PCOS machines” was also an impact story, although it suffered from a framing problem that was previously discussed.

The headline was structured so that the voice was active, although the emphasis was put on NAMFREL as the doer of the action (GMA News Online, 2013). While this did not amount to anything detrimental to the informational value of the article itself, the more immediate issues – the switching of ballots and defective PCOS machines – were relegated to direct object roles because of the voicing.

c. Comments

The comments made to the news stories do not depart from what has already been seen in the news stories of the previous two categories. However, there are several comments that could be considered as irrelevant and repetitive. Table 5.7 shows the public journalism indicators for user-generated feedbacks and the number of stories that expressed them.

Table 5.7. *Public journalism indicators for user-generated feedback and number of stories that exhibited them*

PUBLIC JOURNALISM INDICATORS FOR USER-GENERATED FEEDBACKS	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Avenues for discussion among readers were present	18
Citizen-submitted comments have been storified	0
Conversations between readers and journalists existed	0
Responses to remarks made by readers regarding the work of the journalist have been made	3
Mechanisms around issues and possible solutions have been discussed and reported on	2

Several readers tried to give their opinions trying to explain why the problems reported happened.

For example, reader Ritchie Salceda gave an opinion about the power interruption issue reported in “Four polling precincts affected by power interruption in Cavite”:

"Not Supply related" *Baka pinaglalaruan ni Jr. yung breaker nyo jan or baka may nagnakaw ng kable ng meralco kaya walang power.....trip trip lang sa panahon ng eleksyon.....* (GMA News Online, 2013).

The story "PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day" also got the same treatment from a Guest commenter:

3 years na naka idle...pag nag moisture yan...o kaya inamag mga ibag part..fail na yan...maski iba electrnic machines ...even if [they] are [kept] under certain temperature or moisture control will not function well..3 years ba naman naka tenga (GMA News Online, 2013),

as well as the story "Complaints of PCOS failures still tiny fraction of 78,000 machines" from reader Jeffrey Hernandez:

kaya maraming nasira ng pcos machines is due to the lack of hands on training ng mga bei's. dapat bigyan ng comelect ng mahabang panahon ang training ng mga bei's sa sunod na election. tandaan natin na mga teachers ang bei's hindi sila familiar sa mga machines na to. sabi nga sa kabilang channel, dapat daw mga cashiers na lang pinahapawak sa mga pcos kasi alam nila mag troubleshoot pag nag paper jam..hehe pero grabe, dami bomoto kay nancy..wew (GMA News Online, 2013).

Other readers were critical with their comments. However, even these types of comments did not attract a meaningful discussion of the issue at hand that would have led to a better understanding of issues, as advocated by Lambeth (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). Reader Bagong Ani posted such kind of comment to the story "Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday":

Hindi naman araw araw ang election. bakit kailangan mag-rest? alam naman nating lahat that time is a major factor during election. we can't afford to relax and give unscrupulous parties time to perform their magic tricks on the poll results. don't get me wrong. i know tao lang din kayo at napapagod pero dapat pinaghandaan na yan. palpak na nga ang ibang pcos machines pati ba naman sa leadership ng comelec papalpak pa din tayo ngayon? saka na yang pahinga pahinga na yan pag nailabas na ang resulta (GMA News Online, 2013).

While Bagong Ani's criticism was piercing, it was also responsibly delivered ("dont get me wrong") while also trying to be constructive. "*Saka na yang pahinga pahinga na yan pag nailabas na ang resulta*" might have sounded thoughtless, but it nonetheless effectively delivered the reader's idea regarding the issue.

Aside from being critical, the following comments by readers kram witwit and carlcid also bordered on complaining, either of the issue at hand or the election process itself. The following comments were made to "Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday" and "PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day" respectively:

hanu ba yan! automated na! kung kelan automated na me nalalaman pang pa suspend suspend! eh nung mano mano naman tinatpos ah! kahit kandila lng ang gamit! ayos talga! quality! Basura mga taga COMELEC! bulok nyo grabe! (GMA News Online, 2013)

The polling areas are crowded, hot and humid. The lines are long, with very little elbow room to spare. This gives a whole new meaning to "daang matuwid" (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader repusgloobil tried to address carlcid's complaints, although in a slightly emotionally-charged manner:

I am not pro-administration, but your referenced to "daang matuwid" in connection with the crowded polling places and the weather is too obvious of your political color. Are you not aware that Comelec is a constitutional body, independent from the executive branch of the government? (GMA News Online, 2013).

Seething and indicting comments were also posted to the article "*Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto.*" The following comment was posted by reader Pidyong:

hahaha ganyan talaga kapag natatalo na ang nanay mo lahat napapansin mo na tipong akala mo may dayaan na nangyayari. Bakit akala mo ba robot ng mga taga comelec at di sila napapagod, ang galing mo naman bugoy ka naman (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader echoserangfroggy more or less shared the same sentiment:

Walang pong dayaan na nagaganap vaktush na raymond, gumaganun ganun ka pa? haka haka? lol, karma yan sa lakas ng loob ng takles mong nanay. cebu hates her, she doesnt really have fans its only her wishful thinking (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reportage and framing did not also escape the readers' attention. Again, this showed that a commenting system allows a news organization to pay attention to what readers say about what they do systematically, as Lambeth advocated (Voakes as cited in

Nip, 2006), but it should be noted that neither the author of respective articles nor a moderator from GMA News Online replied or tried to moderate the discussion.

In his comment, reader rainman may have unwittingly called on GMA News Online to consider Friedland's idea of reporting not only what went wrong but also what went right (Merritt, 1998):

bakit laging PCOS failure ang laman ng news? ilang percentage ba ang may problema??? I believe wala namang 1percent.... bakit walang news na maganda??? lahat negative... bawal ba magbalita ng good news about election??? (GMA News Online, 2013)

Reader Mister Mischievous straightforwardly told GMA News Online about “Marawi precinct reverts to manual polls due to PCOS glitches” the following:

mali ung headline! please consider ung sinabi ni sixto brillantes (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader FOX also had the same sentiment, while pointing on what GMA News Online should do:

GMA7, kindly heed what chairman brillantes said earlier, WE HAVE MANUAL VOTING po, counting is the one which is automated. *May punto naman yung matanda kahit puti na ang buhok* (GMA News Online, 2013).

Reader ISRAELIT3S particularly made redundant comments to several articles in this category (which, notably, also appeared in other stories sampled by the researcher).

An example of such comment was:

They (Comelec) need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy

binay included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture *pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo* (GMA News Online, 2013).

While reader cannot be helped from posting redundant comments, the news organization would have been more or less expected to moderate these types of remarks. Such would help in making the flow of conversation in the comment threads smoother.

Stories on candidates and rivalries

a. Characteristics and Framing

Twelve stories were identified by the researcher as articles reporting on candidates and rivalries: “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled”; “10 Team PNoy, 2 UNA bets take first lead in partial, unofficial results”; “*Annabelle Rama, namimiligrong mabigo sa unang sabak sa pulitika sa Cebu*”; “Cayetano take early lead in Taguig”; “Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race”; “Grace Poe leads strong Team PNoy showing in partial tally”; “*Ilang showbiz personalities, nangunguna sa unofficial count in Comelec*”; “Leni Robredo widens lead in CamSur congressional race”; “Pacquiao couple cruising in Sarangani polls”; “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls”; “VP Binay open to reconciliation with Koko”; and “VP Binay to support only PNoy’s ‘good programs’ after elections.”

Before proceeding to analysis proper, it should be noted that “4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled” and “PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls” have been analyzed already in this research.

Again, the researcher identified and tallied the framing indicators for the group of candidates and rivalries stories, as shown in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8. *Framing of stories on candidates and rivalries*

FRAMING OF STORIES ON CANDIDATES AND RIVALRIES	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Framing that “situate readers as stakeholders” was used	0
Framing with the most effective voicing (passive or active) so that the presentation of the issue is clear was used	0
Framing that highlights the issue most relevant to the community was used	5
Framing explains the mechanisms around the issue	0

It is quite notable that all of the articles under this category were prominence stories. However, it was expected as the very stories reported on political candidates and government officials.

The story “10 Team PNoy, 2 UNA bets take first lead in partial, unofficial results” was a recap of senatorial standing shortly after polling precincts closed on Election Day:

GMA News' partial unofficial tally as of 7:22 p.m. showed that Team PNoy's Grace Poe (4,607 votes), Loren Legarda (4,589 votes), Bam Aquino (4,548 votes), Francis Escudero (3,924 votes), Alan Peter Cayetano (3,888 votes), Sonny Angara (3,717 votes), Cynthia Villar (3,532 votes), Koko Pimentel (3,426 votes), Antonio Trillanes IV (3,266 votes), and Jun Magsaysay (3,187 votes) were among the top 12.

They were joined by UNA bets Nancy Binay (4,036 votes) and Miguel Zubiri (3,076 votes) (GMA News Online, 2013).

What was notable with this article was that the author did not fail to include an important detail that could hinder a proper understanding of the story presented, if left unstated:

The figures reflected only 0.03 percent of the election returns (ERs) (GMA News Online, 2013).

The article “Grace Poe leads strong Team PNoy showing in partial tally” proceeded from the same premise of the previous article – reporting on the results of the election, particularly, results in the senatorial race.

Notwithstanding, it should be noted that when the article was accessed by the researcher, it was already updated (GMA News Online, 2013).

The story, aside from Grace Poe, also focused on the standings of Team PNoy (administration) senatoriables:

Eight other senatorial candidates from the administration's Team PNoy were in the top 12, based on partial and unofficial results shortly after the voting period closed on Monday night.

According to the partial unofficial tally as of 9:06 a.m. Tuesday and with 66.93 percent of the returns, Poe leads the senatorial field with 14,424,177 votes. She is followed by fellow administration bets Loren Legarda (13,177,542 votes), Alan Peter Cayetano (12,479,972 votes), and Francis Escudero (12,479,416 votes) (GMA News Online, 2013).

The article was not limited to a litany of figures and names, but also provided a context to the story of Poe’s lead. This helped build a better understanding of the situation at hand:

Legarda was considered the frontrunner throughout the campaign, weathering a media storm over an undeclared New York property days before the election...

With a lead of over a million votes over Legarda, Poe appears to be coasting to victory over much more seasoned politicians. She was certainly aided by a heart-warming campaign ad with her popular mother, actress Susan Roces, and her frequent references to her father the late Fernando Poe Jr., the movie legend whose family says was cheated of the presidency in 2004 (GMA News Online, 2013).

While focusing on Grace Poe and Team PNoy, the story also stated some detail regarding the rankings of the opposition party United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) (GMA News Online, 2013). This further situated the story in the larger context, a process that allowed for readers to understand the issue better (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

In terms of framing, the prominence aspect of these two stories, “10 Team PNoy, 2 UNA bets take first lead in partial, unofficial results” and “Grace Poe leads strong Team PNoy showing in partial tally” was non-negotiable. Even in public journalism terms, this news value doesn’t get in the way of placing the readers as stakeholders (Merritt, 1998) in the issue. The same would be true for all of the stories in this category.

Another rivalry story set on a national scale was “VP Binay to support only PNoy’s ‘good programs’ after the elections.” Unlike the previous two stories, this article did not talk about standings of senatoriables (Tan, 2013). Instead, it reported on a politically-charged statement of Vice-President Jejomar Binay:

"Susupportahan namin todo-todo ang Pangulong Noynoy dun sa mga programang tama," Binay told reporters after voting at the San Antonio National High School in Makati City.

But Binay, a former Makati mayor, quickly noted that he and his party will remain a constructive opposition. "Yung kulang, tututukan. 'Yung mali, kailangan kontrahin," he said (Tan, 2013).

While such statements pointed to the general rivalry between UNA and the administration ticket, especially the vice president's presidential bid for 2016, it did not fail to implicate more-specific and senatorial race-related information, such as the vice president's own daughter's bid for a position at the Upper House (Tan, 2013).

Another story, "VP Binay open to reconciliation with Koko" also had the vice-president as the subject of the headline and the story, but was decidedly different from the preceding articles in terms of not actually discussing the results of the polls:

Vice President Jejomar Binay on Monday said he's willing to patch things up with Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, a party-mate who ran under the rival coalition for the May 13 elections, although he hinted that he did not vote for him (GMA News Online, 2013).

In public journalism terms, the context for the conflict was provided, making sure that readers will understand the issue at hand:

Pimentel, son of former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., was supposed to run under UNA but he backed out after learning that he will be sharing the ticket with former Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, against whom he had filed an electoral protest.

Pimentel then decided to accept the invitation of President Benigno Aquino III to run as guest candidate under the administration-led Team PNoy (GMA News Online, 2013).

On the question of framing, the headline of this article was constructed so that it reports the story of a person, prominent at that, making a statement. The basis of newsworthiness was not so much the statement made as the prominence of the person who spoke it. Nevertheless, the statement was politically-charged, evidenced even in the headline (GMA News Online, 2013).

Unfortunately, the framing of the headline didn't immediately implicate a sense of relevance to the readers, because it concerned personal disagreements of prominent persons, the vice-president and Senator Koko Pimentel (GMA News Online, 2013).

Three articles took on the stories of show business celebrities who ran for government positions in the 2013 midterm polls.

The first of these stories was "*Annabelle Rama, namimiligrong mabigo sa unang sabak sa pulitika sa Cebu.*" This article was about talent manager Annabelle Rama's bid for a seat in the Lower House as representative of Cebu City, but it also briefly reported on singer Imelda Papin's congressional bid as representative of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan (GMA News Online, 2013).

What was notable with this article was that it cited a tweet for information. The tweet belonged to Rama's son, Raymond Gutierrez. In it he expressed his sentiments regarding the "experience" of having their mother run for public office:

This whole experience brought us closer as a family. Everything has a purpose (GMA News Online, 2013).

"*Ilang showbiz personalities, nangunguna sa unofficial count ng Comelec,*" was more general in its scope, and unlike the preceding article, it was positive in tone. This was evidenced by the word "*nangunguna*" (leading) in the headline. As such, the article

reported brief accounts of impending victories of several show business celebrities based from partial results. The researcher cited some of the details in the following:

Sa Quezon City, malaki ang kalamangan ni re-electionist Mayor Herbert Bautista sa kanyang mga katunggali.

Nakatanggap si Bautista ng 191,101 boto kontra sa 19,270 boto ng malayong pumapangalawa na si Johnny Chang. Ito ay batay sa 22.13% ng Nationwide Election Returns.

Malaki rin ang kalamangan ni re-electionist Batangas governor Vilma Santos-Recto sa pumapangalawang si Marcos Mandanas.

Batay sa 34.82% ng Batangas Election Returns, nakakuha na si Gov. Vilma ng 295,255 boto, kontra sa 18,781 boto ni Mandanas (GMA News Online, 2013).

“Pacquiao couple cruising in Sarangani polls” also took on the positive tone, although it was obvious that the story stood not on the positive news but on the prominence of the subjects:

With 34.97 percent of the official election returns in as of 11:08pm, incumbent congressman Manny Pacquiao has amassed a total of 53,458 votes, running unopposed in the lone legislative district of Sarangani province.

Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, is also enjoying a comfortable lead against her competitors in the provincial vice-gubernatorial race. Mrs. Pacquiao has so far gotten 47,636 votes (Fopalan, 2013).

It should be noted that with these three articles, and the stories that will proceed, relevance to readers as stakeholders was only implied, and the prominence value was not implicated. Instead, as what was previously identified by the researcher in several articles

already analyzed, readers become stakeholders because of the proximity value: in reporting the results of congressional, municipal and gubernatorial polls, these stories place readers, although local ones, as stakeholders.

What was notably absent, as what will be seen in the proceeding articles, was identification of platform that would drive an understanding of the values that drive the electoral choices (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). This was slightly negated by the identification of the celebrity candidates' and their opponents' party affiliations, but even such felt inadequate in the goal of presenting values that drive choices:

A far second is the Liberal Party's Eleanor Saguiguit with 11,643, while independent candidate Jose Elorde Villamor has 2,550 (Fopalan, 2013).

The story “Leni Robredo widens lead in CamSur congressional race” was also local in nature,” although the headline betrayed the broader nature of the article. While the headline suggested that the story might be a short account of an impending victory for Robredo, the article actually reported more thoroughly on the election situation in Camarines Sur (GMA News Online, 2013). This was not bad in itself, however, the headline did not reflect the clarity of the issue presented in the body.

The article was remarkable for identifying points of clarification, which was especially significant for non-residents of Camarines Sur. Such points provided context that helped build understanding of the situation (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). An example is the following:

Villafuerte helped Jesse Robredo enter politics and win as mayor of Naga in 1988, but the two soon parted ways and became political rivals... The Villafuertes have

held key local positions in Camarines Sur since the late 1970s (GMA News Online, 2013).

While seemingly small and insignificant, such detail as the length of tenure of a political family standing starkly against the success of a neophyte potentially stimulated “citizen deliberation” (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006) that centered around the future of the province. This was evident in the discussion found in the comment thread of this article.

The stories “Caytanos take early lead in Taguig” and “Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race” were much more local in their scope because they reported on city-level elections. However, it could be surmised that newsworthiness was based upon the prominence of the candidates involved as well as the intense rivalries that preceded election day. Such intense rivalries were stated in both stories:

Two weekends ago, a violent confrontation erupted between Tinga's supporters and personnel from the local government's Public Order and Safety Office (POSO) (GMA News Online, 2013).

The mayoralty race in the country's capital (Manila) is among the tightest, with election-related violence marring the days leading up to election day (GMA News Online, 2013).

As with the previous story about Leni Robredo's congressional bid, the relevance of these stories to the readers depended upon its reporting of local results. The story “Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race” took it further by citing several general statements made by former president and now Manila mayor Joseph Estrada regarding his plans for the city:

Estrada vowed to "work harder than I have ever done in my past loftier political positions" and asked his opponents and the people of Manila to "finally leave politics behind" to put "Manila back to the pedestal of being once one of the greatest cities of the world, the Paris of Asia" (GMA News Online, 2013).

b. Comments

This category of news stories sampled by the researcher attracted a total of 439 comments, compared to the measly 12 and 16 of election anomalies stories and election-related violence articles, respectively. Meanwhile, stories on election operations attracted a total of 53 comments.

Table 5.9 tallies the number of stories that expressed the public journalism indicators for user-generated feedbacks.

Table 5.9. *Public journalism indicators for user-generated feedback and number of stories that exhibited them*

PUBLIC JOURNALISM INDICATORS FOR USER-GENERATED FEEDBACKS	
Indicator	Number of Stories
Avenues for discussion among readers were present	12
Citizen-submitted comments have been storified	0
Conversations between readers and journalists existed	0
Responses to remarks made by readers regarding the work of the journalist have been made	1
Mechanisms around issues and possible solutions have been discussed and reported on	4

The researcher posited that the polarizing nature of stories in the candidates and *rivalries* category was responsible for attracting lengthy discussions not found on any

other categories. What was unfortunate was that, aside from deleting comments that could have violated comment posting guidelines,¹² no meaningful participation from authors of articles or moderators from GMA News Online was seen on the comment threads.

“Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race” topped the list for most number of comments, with 208. Most of the comments were very polemic, attacking and politically-charged in nature, and there was a dearth of meaningful remarks such as those seen in previous stories analyzed (GMA News Online, 2013).

An example of such polemic exchange initially started as a response of regret to Estrada’s success in the mayoralty bid. It eventually evolved into an offensive conversation that personally attacked the other reader. The following exchange was between reader rickycruz and disqus_8ixWwteL8F:

rickycruz: LOL..im not affected though..... Nakakaawa lang ang pnoy dyan sa Manila! sana lang maging maayos si asiong? LOL

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: tgal mo makaget over bro! hahaha

rickycruz: di ka lang makaunawa ka yan ang PANanaw mo!.. LOL.... Get over?..LOL Sarap buhay here sa USA.. LOL

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: madali lang magsabi na asa amerika ka? ano proof mo?

rickycruz: LOL.. Inggit lang yan... Magsikap ka lang !.. LOL

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: hahaha! panggap lang yan. rugby pa. sa susunod asa buwan ka na? ala akong nakita na may ricky cruz sa fb na asa amerika... libre mangarap...

¹² A copy of GMA News Online’s guidelines for posting comments appears at Appendix C of this research.

rickycruz: LMAO... nag research ka pa huh!..LOL di bALE..KONTING panahon na lang..di na rugby gagamitin mo...LOL Yayaman na kc ang mga mahirap for Erap...LOL di maganda ang NAIINGIT!..LOL Iwas ka dyan..at ..ARAL ka pa huh!.. LOL

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: kawawang palaboy! tga amerika daw. hahaha tambay lang pala sa divisoria!

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: janitor o waiter sa USA?

rickycruz: lol!.... Naintindihan mo ba ang word na SARAP buhay ? LOL..mahirap ang buhay ng Janitor at waiter here LOL..... Get over ka na!..LOL

disqus_8ixWwteL8F: ah ok. gwardya ka pala jan! (GMA News Online, 2013)

Even speculations regarding the victory of Estrada also reached accusatory levels. Reader REIGN posted the following remark:

KAYA NMAN PO NANALO KC D2 SA AMIN S DISTRICT 1 TALAMAK ANG VOTE BUYING NI ERAP...YUNG MGA KAPIT BAHAY PO NMAN BINAYARAN CLA PRA MANALO CERAP.. (GMA News Online, 2013)

Not all comments were negative and accusatory. Reader Francis Chong's comment was not only congratulatory and reconciling; he also took the opportunity to air his concerns through the commenting system provided, proving the usefulness of such in spite of the lack of participation on the part of moderators from GMA News Online:

Congrats Mayor Elect Erap hope our vote is worthy please lang po control the abuse Side Car , abuse PUJ using the whole recto reina regent as there PUJ stop one lane nalang for the past 3 yrs na po. 3rd please set a time frame for those abuse side walk vendor maybe the city could let them use 9pm to 3pm call it night

market. they are killing the legit business who pay tax. paki lang po, and for those making negative comment about why we vote Erap is because u never live in Manila so u have no idea what u guys talking about (GMA News Online, 2013).

Others made consoling and hopeful remarks. The following was from reader Jan Anceno:

wala tayo magagawa kung si erap nanalo. im not favor of erap or lim. pero pinaka sagot dito kung ayaw natin maging mang mang ung mga kapwa pilipino, mag tulungan tayo, kahit ung simpleng pag eeducate sa mga kababayan natin at ung mga susunod na henerasyon (GMA News Online, 2013).

While imagining what going right would look like, as Friedland advocated (Merritt, 1998), is the journalist's job, it does not hurt when readers were given an avenue to express similar sentiments.

Reader sana hindi pinoy on the other hand made a general statement regarding what he would want to happen in the country as a whole:

pag aralin ang pinoy ng bagong technology at magprogram ng industriyalisasyon hindi iyong ibang bansa magmina ng likas na yaman natin dito. emplementasyon at desiplina at patungan ng parusa at kabayaran ang lumalabag dito (GMA News Online, 2013).

This was a response to another reader, Dante Labalan Molina, who challenged other commenters to go abroad if they can't stand allegedly dirty politics in the country (GMA News Online, 2013).

While not specifying anyone, ConcernedCitizenPh's remarks was indicting, and a kind of a comment to the way journalists and the mass media as a whole, do their job, especially during elections:

The result of elections for senators in the Philippines depends primarily on the media exposure and TV advertisements. The result of today's election activities will attest to this. In a way, the sad condition of the country is indirectly the result of the media, particularly those who are involved in news reporting. If media puts little regard for love of country, the news reports will pay little attention to acts of betrayal and the public will not notice such actions. If the media does not notice why the country lags behind its neighbors, it would not report to the public what other countries are doing correctly and what we are not doing correctly causing us to be unaware and remain in this stagnant condition. .. sad but true (GMA News Online, 2013).

While the veracity of such comment could not be warranted easily, here again the usefulness of a commenting system in ushering remarks regarding not only the issues at hand but also the conduct of the media industry was seen.

In the story "Grace Poe leads strong Team PNoy showing in partial tally," reader Preemptive_Thinking tried to explain a new aspect of the elections, online campaigning, and its bearing on the decision-making process of fellow Filipinos:

I'm also just challenging those Netizens who believe that Internet in our country has immense influence to our countrymen. . . Sadly, hindi pa tayo ganyan at karamihan ng ibang mga Filipino ay hindi pa din nakakahawak ng computer or gadget na may internet connectivity. Yung iba pa nga walang kuryente.

Karamihan ng ibang bansa ay lampas na sa 1gbps ang pinakamababang Internet speed. Tayo sa Pilipinas. . . karamihan ay nasa 1mbps pa lang ang connectivity.
:((GMA News Online, 2013).

What Preemptive_Thinking did was commendable in public journalism terms. Whilst GMA News Online provided an avenue for readers for discussion *without* initiating or guiding the discussion, Preemptive_Thinking opened the conversation by posing a question (GMA News Online, 2013). One of his responses in the discussion that proceeded was cited above.

A comment to the story “*Ilang showbiz personalities, nangunguna sa unofficial count ng Comelec*” called on the author of the article to improve his writing. The following remark was posted by reader Jhun Ko:

Meron palang UNOFFICIAL count ang COMELEC? Nakatanggap si Bautista ng 191,101 boto kontra sa 19,270 boto ng malayong pumapangalawa na si Johnny Chang. Ito ay batay sa 22.13% ng Nationwide Election Returns. Bakit naging nation wide na ba ang bilangan sa Quezon city? Hay naku.. Ayusin naman kasi pag nag susulat ng balita... (GMA News Online, 2013)

As with previous incidences when a reader called out on GMA News Online to check on their reportage or the veracity of the facts, nobody responded to tell whether an action was taken in response to this complaint.

A more meaningful exchange of opinions, in public journalism terms, was seen in the comment thread of the story “Pacquiao couple cruising in Sarangani polls.”

An issue, the alleged incapability of Manny Pacquiao to hold a seat in the Lower House, was presented by a reader where several others had a chance to deliberate and

actually reach a conclusion. While the comments were not devoid of starkly accusing remarks (GMA News Online, 2013) seen on stories like “Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race,” it showed the potency of the commenting system in facilitating thoughtful conversations even without the moderation of a journalist from the news organization. In public journalism, such is desirable, though.

The following was excerpted from the comment thread and showed what was explained above:

***Fhara Khito:** Congressman is a LAW maker not a project proponent or implementor..Manny is not capable as LAW MAKER, he was only an HS graduate...If he want to help people in his place...Barangay captain to Gov. is enough for him....*

***kareen:** I am aware that Congressmen are lawmakers.But didn't it occur to you that the reason why they are given PDAF in millions of pesos is because they should allocate it for useful projects for their constituents?Limiting the function of congressmen to lawmaking is illogical if they are receiving millions in pork barrel.Also,you don't need to be a college grad to be able to draft and pass SUBSTANTIVE law.You only need common sense, sense of awareness, and sincerity to help and serve.And in fact,the law does not require one to be a college grad to become an elected official.You only need to have the ability to read, write, and count. Did you know that? (GMA News Online, 2013)*

While the deliberation-inducing nature of the stories were already present because of the news value they presented (prominence), it should go without saying again that the presence of a commenting system shows that GMA News Online have given “the public

the incentive of knowing that someone is listening,” (Merritt, 1998) even when the absence of meaningful moderation might betray otherwise. Whilst it seemed that GMA News Online was not seriously “listening,” the commenting system gave commenters the opportunity to be heard by other readers, which further pushed its deliberative potential.

2. *Textual Analysis: Google+ Hangout discussions*

E13 Hangout – Overseas Absentee Voting

a. Characteristics

GMA News Online conducted “E13 Hangout – Overseas Absentee Voting” on May 13, 2013, Monday, at 3:00 in the afternoon, Philippine Time. It was a simultaneous discussion between people from different time zones.

The length of the discussion was 42 minutes and 27 seconds. The video was accessed by the researcher at www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013/hangout and was retrieved from www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dk1TtyhOEo on 02 September 2013.

The discussion was led by Suzie Entrata-Abrera, one of the hosts of GMA News and Public Affairs’ long-running morning show, *Unang Hirit*. It was participated by experts or resource persons: Commission on Elections (COMELEC) spokesperson Director James Jimenez; Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Undersecretary Jose Brillantes and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Information and Technology Consultant Renato Garcia.

It was also participated by YouScoopers George Ganghe from San Francisco, California, United States of America and Carlos Simbillio from Florence, Italy (discussion transcription, September 10, 2013). YouScoop is the citizen journalism arm of GMA News and Public Affairs.

Aside from Ganghe and Simbillio, the discussion was also participated by Leo Concepcion from Hong Kong.

Ganghe is a Filipino immigrant to the United States, who has been living there since January 1973. On the other hand, both Simbillio and Concepcion are overseas Filipino workers (OFW). No information has been mentioned regarding the length of their stay in Italy and Hong Kong, respectively (discussion transcription, September 10, 2013).

As of discussion time, all three have already participated in the overseas absentee voting that has been provided for by the COMELEC and the DFA. Of the three, only Concepcion mentioned that he has also participated in the overseas absentee voting in 2010.

The discussion mostly centered on the topic of the overseas absentee voting – its mechanisms and the problems faced particularly by the participating absentee voters. However, unlike the previous Hangout discussion analyzed, Abrera, the moderator, did not deliberately stated that the discussion will be about overseas absentee voting. Instead, such was implied:

Daig pa kayo ng mga Kapuso nating nasa abroad dahil kahit malayo sa Pilipinas po ang ilan po sa kanila ay nakaboto na rin. Nagawa po nila ‘yan sa pamamagitan ng overseas absentee voting. At ang ilan sa kanila ay makaka-usap po natin dito sa ating E13 Hangout, ang tambayan mo ngayong Eleksyon 2013 (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Thus, it would become understandable that the discussion not only provided conversation for the issue of overseas absentee voting, its mechanisms and problems, but also to the local elections and the problems that prevailed mostly during election day.

b. Deliberative Function

The deliberative function of a Google+ Hangout discussion lies in its ability to gather together online users in *real time*. Whereas a commenting system, such as the one present in GMA News Online's website does provide a medium for discussion, it does not happen in absolute real time, so that other users, while one is speaking or making a remark, can process such words or comments.

Expressions of public journalism

In public journalism terms, this type of discussion provides a way for the news organization, in this study, GMA News Online, to "listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover" (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006). In the video being analyzed, the semi-structured quality of the discussion was also evident, just like in the previous Google+ Hangout discussion.

First, it was guided by a moderator, who steered the discussion from one point to another. For example, the discussion was started by Suzie Entrata-Abrera by addressing the concerns of citizens voiced through social networking sites to COMELEC's Director James Jimenez and PPCRV's Renato Garcia (video transcription, September 10, 2013). The discussion was initiated with a question *and* a request for update:

Abrera: At bago po ang lahat, Dir. Jimenez, ano po ang ginagawa naman ng COMELEC dun sa mga palyadong PCOS machines? Medyo may mga reported

na po tayong mga palyadong PCOS machines (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

It was clear that this was not to be the main topic, so that after about two-and-a-half minutes of discussing the issue, Abrera veered away by letting the third expert present, DFA Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, to finally make an update with regards to the situation of the overseas absentee voting:

Abrera: Right. Speaking of preparation naman po USec Brillantes, kamusta naman po ang naging preparasyon po natin para sa ah overseas absentee voting this year?

USec Brillantes: Ah yung, matagal na po yung ah ginagawa naten. Almost ah, two years and preparation nito and ah we receive our instructions as agents actually, of the COMELEC. So meron po tayong registration period (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Also, Abrera hinted on the structure of the discussion by revealing that there were indeed staff from the newsroom who assisted her in executing the Hangout. She made this disclosure when Undersecretary Brillantes commended GMA for choosing the three overseas absentee voters as participants in the discussion:

Abrera: Nako magagaling po talaga yung mga kasamahan ko dito mukhang pinili talaga mga the best of the best no (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

On the other hand, much leeway was also given to the citizen participants to share their experiences and problems, as well as suggested solutions. Even when it was not their “turn” to speak or the moderator did not specifically ask them a question in which they would be forced to respond, they voluntarily raised concerns and were given the

chance to comment on certain things that the experts claimed. What proceeded were meaningful exchanges between the citizen participants and the experts.

For example, George Ganghe, the Filipino immigrant to the US, was initially asked by Abrera about when his family moved to the United States. His response, January 1973, drew the amusement of Director Jimenez, who confessed that he was born February 1973 (video transcription, September 10, 2013). This also fascinated Ganghe, and the discussion proceeded so that he was given the chance to ask him a question and to suggest a solution:

*Ganghe: Ang tanong ko po kay James, ay para, three-fold question po. Para maiwasan po, marami pong kababayan natin ang kagaya ninyo na, hindi nakakaboto ng dalawang beses ay natatangal sa listahan. **Sana po ang rules na ito ay pwedeng mabago** at para sayang lang po ang oras at pera pag ano, pagbubura at pagbabalik. Sana po ay huwag na natin pong ah, meron pong magsulong nito sa ating Kongreso, na mabago. **Kagaya po ng nababasa namin at nababalitaan namin, sa susunod na taon po**, kung may katotohanan po ba ang sinasabi po ni Senator Pimentel na, last February 5 po ay na-aprubahan na po ang kanyang sinusulong na pagbabago sa Voters Act po ng 2003 na tutungo sa computerization ho na makaka-solve sa problema ng mga taga-Italy at ah na sinasabi ni Mr. Brillantes na economic reason na propensity ng voting population po ay dahil po sa, ano, paghahanapbuhay. Maiiwasan po sa, kung totoo man po yung sinasabi ni Senator Pimentel na nakapasa ito, sabihin niyo sa akin kung totoong nakapasa na ito ang registration po at pagboto ay makikita po natin sa darating na 2016 election, at kung napirmahan na po ni Presidente Aquino itong,*

ito, ito po ang katanungan ko sa inyo, James, palagay ko 'yung ibang pinagdidiscussionan natin makakasolve sa problema na 'yan (video transcription, September 10, 2013, emphasis added).

While the question he was trying to pose could not be clearly identified until near the end of his statement, his remark was indeed three-fold, albeit not strictly in the sense he was trying to express. First, he made a plea with regards to the present situation of voter disenfranchisement when he said (“*Sana po ang rules na ito ay pwedeng mabago*”). Second, he asked for a confirmation of the news that he had allegedly read and heard (“*Kagaya po ng nababasa namin at nababalitaan namin*”). Lastly, he inquired if the president had already signed the law in question (“*ito po ang katanungan ko sa inyo, James*”).

These categories, while initially do not make sense in public journalism, are made sensible when it is realized that these are some of the various expressions that could be communicated when such medium for deliberation is provided.

The same was true for the citizen participant Carlos Simbillio from Florence, Italy. He was permitted to make additional remarks even when his “turn” to speak was over. Again, this showed the loosely structured characteristic of the discussion, which definitely helped in propelling the conversation in search for solutions forward:

Carlos: Pwede pong magsingit sandali, ah, regarding po sa mga nagbabakasyon na hindi nakakaboto.

Abrera: Yes.

Carlos: Ah, sa atin po kasi dito sa, dahil sa taunan po bago maka-uwi ang mga OFW, ah inaabot po sila ng mahigit isang buwan, minsan may inaabot po ng isa't

*kalahati, may dalawang buwan para makapagbakasyon sa Pilipinas. At kahit po sila ay gumawa ng paraan na makapagpa-register, kung wala naman po silang paraan din na makakaboto dahil sa isang buwan lang po ang taning para makaboto. ‘Yun po sana kung magkaroon ng expansion sa pagboto, ah, kagaya kung dati po ay 2009 ay nagkaroon po tayo ng massive dissemination campaign...
Abrera: Uhuh.*

Carlos: Ah, magkaroon din po sana ng information drive para sa mga hindi nakapagparehistro, mabigyan din po sila ng tsansa na makapagparegister, at yun lamang po, dahil sa aking pananaw po, maganda po yung ah mga ginawa po nila DFA Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, pero dahil po sa kabusihan ng ating mga kababayan, kulang pa rin po siguro an gang kanilang oras at panahon dahil sa kanilang mga trabaho (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

This form of loosely structured discussion allowed GMA News Online to listen to citizens’ stories and ideas *while* protecting its freedom on what to ask, and effectively, what to “cover.”

Aside from this function, the discussion also served as a medium for explaining the mechanics of the elections, in certain ways that are not discussed in traditional media like television and radio.

One example was Director Jimenez’s response to Abrera’s initial question regarding the failure of certain precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines. In his reply, he explained the procedures for responding to such problems:

Dir. Jimenez: Well ah, sa ngayon minomonitor natin ‘yung mga instances kung saan nirereport nila ‘yan, at ah, in some cases nagpapadala tayo ng ano, ng,

replacement machines, and in some cases na mukhang hindi talaga natin mahahabol mayroon tayong mga contingency measures kung saan ah, inuutos natin na yung mga balota ilalagay sa isang receptacle and then later on ifi-feed sa isang working PCOS machine. Siyempre lahat 'yon nagaganap with witnesses and with notice to the parties (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Interestingly, a real time response through an unidentified social networking site was delivered, so that Abrera asked a follow-up question. However, it seemed like Director Jimenez did not get the sense of the inquiry, as his answer was quite irrelevant:

Abrera: May sinasabi din po sila na pagka ah, naka-input po per machine yung voting precinct lang po na dapat fini-feed na mga, na mga balota don. Paano po 'yon 'pag may iniimport kayo na mga ibang balota po, ah, Sir James.

Dir. Jimenez: Hindi kami nag-iimport, in fact isa nga 'yan sa mga naging problema natin kanina. Kung saan yung mga balota for Compostela Valley was mixed up with ballots from Compostela.

Abrera: Alright.

Dir. Jimenez: So parang nagkapalit sila no. So hindi pwede pagpalitin 'yon kasi the ballots are unique for each PCOS for each municipality. So hindi na... Kapag nangyaring magkaroon ng ganong ano ah switch as happened in ah Baguio today, hindi sila nakapagbotohan don sa presinto na 'yon (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

In her question, Abrera was trying to confirm whether Director Jimenez's previous response was technically possible. However, Director Jimenez took the question as new inquiry so that he confused it with another problem, that of mixing-up of ballots

(video transcription, September 10, 2013). Unfortunately, this was not addressed by Abrera and proceeded with the discussion.

Another instance was the main issue in question, overseas absentee voting. While mainstream tri-media was not categorically sparse when it came to covering the overseas absentee voting, it is arguable that with the amount of information provided about it through this specific initiative, their coverage was found wanting.

For example, Undersecretary Brillantes was given a chance to explain their preparations in detail and actual explain the relationship of the DFA and the COMELEC.

The foreign affairs undersecretary said that they have been preparing for two years and have conducted voter registration in November 2012 (video transcription, September 10, 2013). He also added:

Nagtayo kami ng isang monitoring center dito para naman mamonitor ngayon lahat ng nangyayari overseas habang bumuboto dito sa Maynila ay bumuboto din po sa lahat ng ating mga posts. Ang kaibahan lamang po ay ah our overseas absentee voters or our OFWs, buhat pa po nung ah April 13 until today ay bumuboto na po sila (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

It also turned out that the DFA was an *agent* of the COMELEC, which means that the DFA acts out orders coming from and on behalf of COMELEC when it comes to overseas absentee voting. Director Jimenez explained that, indeed, the COMELEC has a big role in the implementation of the overseas absentee voting.

The problem that was being discussed was the loss of names of some OFWs from the overseas absentee voting list of voters. This was an issue that Simbillio raised and

was very prevalent in Italy. Director Jimenez revealed that even with the list of Filipino voters abroad, the local elections authority is very much hands-on:

...You can say COMELEC is responsible for that. Ah, kini-clean-up namin yung list ngayon no pero kasi ang difference dito is that sa overseas actually lumilipat ka ng listahan. So sometimes it's in the transferring [from local to overseas] of the name that that ah we're encountering some sort of gap (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

It followed that when GMA News Online, through this specific Google+ Hangout, “listened” to the stories and ideas of citizens while protecting its freedom to cover, it also caused the involvement of these citizens in the search for solutions to the issues presented (Merritt, 1998).

Also, even beyond the participation of the three OFWs was the openness of the Google+ Hangout discussion itself to be watched by other online users in real-time. In other words, the discussion was not taped and released later as a production output by GMA News Online (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

This allowed such other online users who were not chosen to participate in the video discussion itself to throw in questions through social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

This was made clear by Abrera at the beginning of the discussion, just after introducing the participants in the Google+ Hangout:

At siyempre, iniimbitahan po naten ang ating mga Kapuso online, kahit saang sulok man kayo ng mundo pwede kayo makisali sa ating usapan, i-type lamang po sa inyong browser ang URL address na www.gmanews.tv/E13Hangout at maari

niyo pong i-follow ang @gmanews sa Twitter at i-tweet ang inyong mga tanong at opinyon gamit ang ating official hashtag #E13Hangout (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

The result was that the deliberation became richer because grassroots issues, or problems that occur at the very precinct or even personal level, were included in the discussion. One example was already cited above: a Facebook user asked about the standard operating procedure when a replacement PCOS to a failed machine also fails to function properly (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Another example was a question also received through Facebook. This, on the other hand, was a personal problem that could potentially have been the problem also of other voters:

Abrera: Oh. Meron po kaming ano naman, Facebook question naman, si Anna Viray. This is about naman the precinct finder na siyempre marami na pong mga high-tech ngayon katulad naten dito sa E13 Hangout, so chinicheck po nila sa precinct finder ng COMELEC nakalog-in daw siya kanina hindi daw siya rehistrado pero nakita daw niya three weeks ago na registered siya. Pero nung siguro dinouble-check niya kanina bago siya bumoto, hindi na raw siya rehistrado. What could have happened bakit hindi ah, nagiging consistent (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Another public journalism value that expressed itself in the discussion was the reporting of not only the problems but also the things that have “gone right” (Merritt, 1998). While it is beyond the scope of this study to gauge how journalists view good

news today, it is arguable that the propensity of the profession is to report on things that have gone wrong (Merritt, 1998).

In this specific Google+ Hangout, Abrera acknowledged that indeed, there were many positive reports on the conduct of the elections:

Actually, marami pong mga positive responses sa online media nga na sinasabi nilang naging maayos at mabilis yung ibang mga presinto. Of course not all. Pero ah, overall naging maganda yung mga experience nung ating mga kababayan (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

This is remarkable because the very premise of the Hangout was to discuss issues and *problems* regarding the elections:

Abrera: ...Magsisilbing open forum ang ating E13 Hangout para pagsama-samahin po ang mga eksperto naten, ilang mga kandidato at ordinaryong mga mamamayan upang talakayin ang mga importanteng detalye, isyu at problema ngayong eleksyon (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Mr. Renato Garcia of the PPCRV also acknowledged an election than that in 2010, at least in terms of PCOS machine failures:

Mr. Garcia: Maganda-ganda naman po ang lumalabas na turnout, kasi nung 2010, umabot ng mahigit 400 ang ah PCOS machines na bumigay. Pero ngayon wala pang mga 100 palang no, although kalahating araw palang tayo, mas preparado naman tayo ngayon dahil may ekperiyensiya na tayo.

And in all fairness to the three OFWs who have been asked to participate in this Google+ Hangout, their remarks on the overseas absentee voting process in their

respective countries contained good news (video transcription, September 10, 2013). Leo Concepcion's report, however, stands out particularly in this category:

Actually napaka, ah, napaka-efficient nung system dito ahm, based on my experience pumunta lang ako sa ah, sa precinct, siguro mga ten minutes lang tapos ahm na yung buong proseso ng pagboto ko... Saka, siguro idadagdag ko lang nakakatuwa dito sa Hong Kong. Bukod dun sa consulate na sobrang ah, sobrang inayos 'yung proseso para sa mga kababayan natin, maraming mga volunteer, volunteer groups na ah tumulong para maging usher, maging usherette, magbigay ng information. Ahm, isa pa yung ah, kasi yung iba may mga kababayan tayo na nasa medyo malayong lugar. Malayo yung ah yung pinanggalingan nila doon sa presinto. Ah nagprovide yung consulate saka yung ibang mga kompanya dito ng ah ng shuttle, shuttle bus para ihatid sila sa presinto, dun sa presinto (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

Finally, the video transcription provided an opportunity for feedback to GMA News Online's election coverage. Such feedback, though, could not be described as a conscious response to a systematized call for reactions to the coverage because they were made as spontaneous remarks (video transcription, September 10, 2013). A systematic and regular attention to what readers think about a news organization is what public journalism would like to achieve (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006).

Notwithstanding such category, one example of such feedback was made by Undersecretary Brillantes. It was a remark on GMA News Online's choice of participants in this particular Hangout:

Yung sinasabi ni Leo na sabi niya eh maraming bumoto sa Hong Kong. Actually, ang number 1 na sa voting turnout ay Hong Kong, sa top ten po naman ay kasama ang US at kasama din po ang Italy. Kaya't ah, congratulations diyan sa GMA baka hindi po ninyo sinasadya pero ang napili ninyong makasama dito ay puro nasa top ten sa voting sa overseas (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

He also expressed gratitude to GMA for its alleged support in providing better information dissemination in the overseas:

Yung turnout eh pwede pa nating mapaganda at salamat sa GMA at ah, yung suporta po ninyo ay nagbigay ng mas malawak na ah kaalaman ang ating mga OFWs overseas (video transcription, September 10, 2013).

E13 Hangout – Election Day Problems and Resolutions

a. Characteristics

GMA News Online conducted the Google+ Hangout “Election Day Problems and Resolutions” on May 13, 2013, Monday, at 9:00 in the morning, Philippine Standard Time.

The length of the discussion was 31 minutes and 14 seconds. The video was accessed by the researcher at www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2013/hangout and was retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dk1TtyhOEo> on 02 September 2013.

The discussion was led by Lyn Ching-Pascual, also one of the hosts of GMA News and Public Affairs’ long-running morning show, *Unang Hirit*. It was participated

by one resource person, Commission on Elections (COMELEC) spokesperson Director James Jimenez and by four citizens: blogger and researcher JC Maningat from Batangas; YouScooper Dave Tan from Pasig City; Jeffrey Belen from Las Piñas; and Emily Tanlapo, an OFW from Singapore (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

Unlike the previous Google+ Hangout, no more information regarding the participants were detailed (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

As of discussion time, JC Maningat and Emily Tanlapo have already participated in the polls. Jeffrey Belen and Dave Tan have yet to cast their votes in their respective precincts (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

b. Deliberative Function

The discussion did not center on one particular topic. Instead, the pace of the discussion suggests that it has a tighter structure than the previous Google+ Hangout.

Several issues were raised, but the most talked about issue was regarding voter concerns (video transcription, September 03, 2013). For example, Tan asked about standard operating procedures for senior citizen and persons with disability (PWD) voters. Belen, on the other hand, inquired about who to approach to know which voting precinct he should vote (video transcription, September 03, 2013). Maningat raised his concern regarding the massive disenfranchisement of business process outsourcing (BPO) employees because of allegedly unfair employment rules that caused their failure to participate in the polls (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

Expressions of public journalism

Like the Google+ Hangout previously analyzed, this type of discussion provided a way for GMA News Online to listen to what citizens had to say with regards to the

conduct of the elections. However, unlike the previous discussion, this Hangout proved to be tighter in structure, therefore, more time-limited. This was evidenced by Lyn Ching-Pascual consciously cutting the discussion because of the time:

Maraming salamat sa 'yo Direktor Jimenez. I wish I could have spent more time with you, I wish I could ask so many more questions unfortunately we're out of time. So maraming salamat Direktor Jimenez, thank you so much (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

Also, unlike the previous discussion, the citizen-participants were only given one turn to air their inquiries, although they were allowed to air follow up questions.

Whereas in the previous video Abrera gave chance for several of the resource speakers to have meaningful exchanges with the citizen-participants, it is notable that in this discussion, there is only *one* resource speaker and the moderator acted to relay the questions of the citizens to the expert. Effectively, the discussion became a question-and-answer segment, devoid of relatively extensive conversation towards resolution of problems.

To elaborate on this, the researcher noted how the moderator asked only one question: Do you have a question for Director Jimenez? (video transcription, September 03, 2013). While this would lead to an acknowledgement of a problem and an answer to such problem, this did not necessarily lead to a resolution, unlike the conversation in the previous video where Director Jimenez took the suggestion of a participant on how to resolve a certain problem.

Suffice to say, these seeming shortcomings do not disqualify other expressions of public journalism in the Google+ Hangout.

In consciously identifying this aspect of GMA News Online's election coverage as a place where average citizens can participate in the discussion, Pascual acknowledges the attachment of her news organization to the public life as a fair-minded participant (Merritt, 1998):

At hindi lang po sa TV niyo kami mapapanood, ha, dahil maging online sa pamamagitan ng E13, as you can see behind me, E13 Hangout, ang tambayan ngayon niyo ngayong Eleksyon 2013. Wala po tayong commercial break at dire-diretso po. Thirty minutes ha, na umaatikabong talakayan, usap-usapan ang ating ihahatid sa inyo online, mga Kapuso. Now, magsisilbing open forum po ang ating E13 Hangout na pagsasama-samahin po natin yung mga eksperto, ang kandidato at ordinaryong mamamayan, kasama natin ang mga (scoopers) and bloggers, everybody, upang talakayin ang mga importanteng detalye, important issues, details at siyempre problemang nakakaharap ninyo ngayong Eleksyon 2013 (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

While technically not everyone who wanted to participate in the Google+ Hangout can join in the video discussion, GMA News Online was able to invite the participation of others through Twitter (video transcription, September 03, 2013). This was also manifested in the previous video:

Pwede kayong magbigay ng opinion at katanungan sa Twitter at sundan lamang ang Twitter account ng GMA News. Just @GMANews. Don't forget the hashtag na #E13Hangout (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

While this invitation cannot be considered as paying "continuing systematic attention to how well and how credibly [the news organization] is communicating with

the public” (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006), this could be very well considered as journalism allowing “people to see themselves as part of a public process of discussion and sharing information” (Merritt, 1998).

Like in the previous video, this invitation proved fruitful. A question from an unidentified medium came in and was included in the discussion. The inquiry was promptly answered by Director Jimenez:

Pascual: But anyway sir, this is another question na pumasok sa 'tin noh. Ah yung sabi nila eh, “Chiz Escudero’s dad is still a registered voter what is comelec doing regarding delisting deceased and this be used for cheating.” Ano po ba ang patakaran natin pagdating sa kunyari namatay na ang isang tao pero botante siya. Automatic ba kailangan kamag-anak ang pumunta na sa comelec para sabihin na tanggalin sa listahan. Papaano kung ayaw nilang tanggalin?

Dir. Jimenez: Okay. Ang proseso po natin dun kapag ah may namayapa na noh, iniintay natin yung kanilang death certificate from the civil registry. Uhm, apart from that kung hindi dinadala ng civil registry usually lumalapit yung kamag-anak sa COMELEC. Paki delist naman yung aking kamag-anak pero hindi COMELEC ang pupunta sa inyo at sasabihing, “namatayan kayo.” Pero in general hindi natin alam. Kakaiba siguro nung process ng father ni Senator Escudero because he’s just a public (said something) or kung nakausap na po nila yung civil registry i-forward na po sa amin agad-agad (video transcription, September 03, 2013).

In his response, Director Jimenez also described a certain mechanism that could potentially be left unreported in mainstream tri-media: that of delisting of the deceased.

Synthesis

It could be surmised, especially from the statements made by the participants, that what they experienced have also been experienced, to some degree, by many voters during Election Day.

The very titles of the discussions commanded relevance, thus putting viewers and participants of the Google+ Hangout videos in the position of stakeholder: “Problems and Resolutions” easily denote the classic question-and-answer format already present in mainstream media especially in radio; “Overseas Absentee Voting” conjures the overseas worker phenomenon arguably familiar to most Filipinos.

These Google+ Hangout discussions also represented a part of GMA News Online’s reporting project *Eleksyon 2013*. It was remarkable how the achievements of these discussions, despite some shortcomings proved to be an accurate expression of these aspirations of Buzz Merritt, expressed in questions:

What would be good outcomes? What is the goal? What mechanisms from different stakeholders might come into being to help attack the problem? Who needs to talk to whom (and about what) to resolve the problem? What core values stand in the way of resolution and how and where can they be discussed? (1998)

It was clear in the introductory remarks of both Pascual and Abrera that the aim of the discussions was *discussion* and not problem-solving. In this regard, the goal of reengaging citizens in discussion to solve the problems they face (Merritt, 1998), was realized to a great extent. Further explanation and synthesis was provided in the proceeding chapter, Summary of Findings and Conclusion.

CHAPTER VI. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

A. Summary

After doing textual analysis on 37 articles and two Google+ Hangout published, conducted and produced by GMA News Online on May 13, Election Day, the researcher found out that these aspects of the news organization's *Eleksyon 2013* special coverage contained substantial expressions of public journalism values, as articulated by Edmund Lambeth in his goals of public journalism (Voakes as cited in Nip, 2006), Lewis Friedland in his public journalism philosophies (Merritt, 1998) and Buzz Merritt in his methods of public journalism (1998).

In keeping with the framing indicators presented and identified by the researcher, the following figures summarized the number of news stories that expressed such indicators. Fifteen stories or 41% of all the news stories sampled were framed to that they situate readers as stakeholders. Three stories or 8% of the sample were framed so that the most effective voicing was used for the purpose of clarity. Eleven stories or 30% of the sampled articles were framed so that the main subject was highlighted as the issue most relevant to the community. Finally, six articles or 16% of the sample was framed so that the mechanisms around the issues were explained.

For the user-generated feedbacks or comments, public journalism indicators were also presented and identified. All stories provided an avenue for discussion among readers, the commenting system. Curiously, no citizen-submitted comment was storified nor a conversation between the readers and journalists or moderators from GMA News Online transpired. Four stories or 11% of the total sample articles had comments where readers remarked on the way the stories were written (framing, veracity of facts, etc.).

Thirteen articles or 35% of the sample attracted comments where the readers attempted to explain the issues and suggest solutions to them.

The researcher summarized the assessment of public journalism expressions observed through textual analysis by enumerating several public journalism values and citing instances. The following shows Lambeth's goals of public journalism and corresponding assessment of expressions seen on GMA News Online's Election Day news stories and Google+ Hangout videos:

1. **Listen systematically to the stories and ideas of citizens even while protecting its freedom to choose what to cover.** The commenting system and the Google+ Hangout medium provided an opportunity for GMA News Online to listen systematically to the stories, ideas and suggestions of its readers and citizen-journalists (YouScoopers). Even while listening, GMA News Online, to some extent, protected its freedom of coverage by providing moderation in the Google+ Hangout videos, something that was notably absent in the comment threads of news stories.
2. **Examine alternative ways to frame stories on important community issues.** Traditional framing methods (primacy of active voicing over passive voicing) that reflect traditional news values were observed, such that only a handful of news stories were public journalism-efficient in highlighting important community issues in the way they were framed.
3. **Choose frames that stand the best chance to stimulate citizen deliberation and build understanding of issues.** Prominence stories attracted the most number of comments from readers. While such was evident, it did not warrant

discussions that led to better understanding of issues in most news stories.

However, the opposite was observed in the Google+ Hangout videos, at least very extensively in one of them. Contrary to the lack of thoughtfulness in the discussions in the comment threads of the news stories, the discussions in the Hangout videos generally led the participants to come up and suggest solutions to problems.

4. **Take the initiative to report on major public problems in a way that advances public knowledge of possible solutions and the values served by alternative courses of action.** The Google+ Hangout discussions showed how certain issues that were not normally discussed in traditional tri-media in an extensive manner were talked about so that participants could come up with solutions. However, the discussion of values served by courses of action were not as extensive as the discussions of the solutions themselves. This would have been especially valuable in reporting about candidates and rivalries.
5. **Pay continuing and systematic attention to how well and how credibly it is communicating with the public.** The availability of a commenting system and the use of Google+ Hangout somewhat gave a chance for readers and participants to tell something about the work of GMA News Online (and to some extent, GMA News and Public Affairs as well) in its coverage of the elections. These remarks came in both positive and negative forms. The positive remarks were mostly congratulatory and were delivered through the Google+ Hangout discussions. The negative remarks cited several mishaps in

the way stories were framed and reported. Unfortunately, no counter-responses were made regarding the negative remarks, which hinted that these were either unimportant or no action were taken. Also, it should be noted that GMA News Online gave no conscious invitation to assess its reportage, at least in the samples the researcher analyzed.

The researcher also made a summary of the assessment in terms of Friedland's public journalism philosophies. These philosophies were defined as "mental shifts" from traditional journalism to public journalism (Merritt, 1998). Again it should be noted that GMA News Online neither identified itself as a public journalism organization nor practicing public journalism philosophies, values and methods:

1. **Public journalism moves beyond the limited mission of telling the news to a broader mission of helping public life go well, and acts out of that imperative.** While GMA News Online as a website is a news delivery medium *per se*, its Google+ Hangout initiative as a part of the *Eleksyon 2013* coverage intentionally sought to discuss the problems and issues on Election Day. Such initiative can be seen as helping the public life, in this case, the shared experience of casting of votes and participating in a democratic exercise, go well.
2. **It moves from detachment to being fair-minded participant in public life.** One of the most respectable aspects of GMA News Online's *Eleksyon 2013* coverage was the contribution of citizen input in production. While it cannot be surmised how reader comments in the sampled news stories affected coverage, the Google+ Hangouts were avenues for absorbing input from

citizens that not only contributed to the search for solutions, but also to the improvement of news coverage.

3. **It moves from worrying about proper separations to concern with proper connections.** While its traditional newswriting and coverage do not easily mingle citizen concerns and expert voices, GMA News Online was able to achieve this and execute it quite thoughtfully with Google+ Hangouts. The very premise of the E13 Hangout was to connect ordinary citizens and experts in discussing and coming up with solutions to election problems.
4. **It moves beyond only describing what is going wrong to also imagining what going right would be like.** The coverage provided by GMA News Online seen in the sampled articles had commendable examples of delivering “good news,” most notably the report on disabled voters. This also was seen much more clearly on the Google+ Hangout discussions, especially on the overseas absentee voting video, where solutions were not only provided but also the hopefulness that such solutions, when implemented, would yield the desired results.
5. **It moves from seeing people as consumers – as readers or non-readers, as bystanders to be informed – to seeing them as a public, as potential actors in arriving at democratic solutions to public problems.** Again, the presence of a commenting system and the E13 Hangout were already moving readers and ordinary citizens from the position of consumers to participants in the search for solutions and better understanding of the issues at hand. More importantly, however, was the prospect of arriving at solutions

democratically, such that suggestions did not only come from “experts,” but also from ordinary citizens.

Finally, the researcher also made a summary of the assessments presented through Merritt’s two particular public journalism methods:

1. **Using a different nut graf and framing so that readers are situated as stakeholders.** While traditional reporting methods, such as adherence to traditional news values, were still very prevalent in the news stories sampled, some ventured into exploring different “nut grafs” so that the issues presented were very immediate to the readers. Suffice to say, there were also news stories that lost the opportunity to put the main issue on the spotlight because of traditional framing choices.
2. **Cause the involvement of the readers by informing them how to.** Several news stories, as well as the Google+ Hangout videos themselves, were very clear in telling readers how they can participate in the democratic process of reporting problems and suggesting solutions. Most notable was the use of social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook in gathering inputs from readers and viewers.

B. Conclusion

As what was noted before by the researcher, GMA News Online has neither identified itself as a public journalism organization nor practicing public journalism philosophies. However, their election coverage showed that through Internet instruments such as commenting systems and avenues for real-time conversation and deliberation,

public journalism can express itself in meaningful ways even when not explicitly intended.

This was not to say that the substance of the coverage that was seen in the limited analysis was purely public journalism nature; indeed, there were lapses where the news organization can improve on. But it could not be denied that in this special coverage, GMA News Online moved from asking the traditional questions of accuracy, fairness and completeness to exploring improvements in reporting by involving citizen readers (news story comment threads) and its YouScooper citizen journalists (Google+ Hangouts).

In the light of all these, it can be surmised that these noble ideas from the past – public journalism – can be combined with the tools of today and the future, especially the Internet, so that it could be viable and relevant again. The coverage of GMA News Online arguably showed that the direction of journalism moves away from journalist-centric reporting to something that synergizes the stories and ideas of journalists and citizens.

CHAPTER VII. IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Implications

One of the problems that emerged early in the public journalism movement was the cost of organizing discussions between journalists, citizens and experts. While the lofty ideals of public journalism were commendable, newsrooms cannot bear additional expenses because of already dwindling budgets.

The findings of this research showed that while GMA News Online neither identified itself as a public journalism organization nor practices public journalism philosophies, values and methods, it nevertheless expressed public journalism ideas in its *Eleksyon 2013* coverage.

While the findings of this study can be easily dismissed because of cost, it should be noted that the emergence of such public journalism expressions in the coverage *came through new technologies* such as online reporting, commenting systems and the Google+ Hangouts.

Thus, the problem of cost is already eliminated because of the easy accessibility of these Internet tools for other news organizations to use in their own reporting endeavors.

Furthermore, the systematized listening to feedbacks and ideas that were not yet fully realized in the coverage could be implemented with more possibility than ever before.

Another implication was the opening up of new technologies, most especially Google+ Hangouts, to journalism projects that involve citizens in manners that are closer-

to-reality. Suddenly, discussions of public problems were not limited anymore to competitive airtime on TV and radio.

B. Recommendations

The researcher recommends future researchers to perform source study, which this present study was not able to do. An audience study that involves interviewing the Google+ Hangout participants would also help understanding of reception of these kinds of technologies by ordinary citizens.

The researcher also recommends other researchers particularly those interested in Internet technologies and their probable functions in public journalism (or journalism as a whole) to investigate further on the viability of Google+ Hangout in major reporting projects and breaking news.

Finally, the researcher implores others to probe and increase the knowledge base of public journalism in the Philippines, especially in this time when citizen voices are amplified through the Internet. A study on the delineation between citizen journalism and public journalism can also define the direction of the country's press. It is very interesting especially now that news organizations are increasingly probing better connections with citizens through citizen journalism initiatives like GMA News' own YouScoop and public journalism initiatives like Inquirer Conversations¹³.

¹³ The Philippine Daily Inquirer started 'Conversations' as a response to the pork barrel scam of 2013. <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/494689/inquirer-starts-conversation-on-pork>

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Google+ Hangout Video Transcriptions

1. Overseas Absentee Voting

Suzie Entrata-Abrera: Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat mga Kapuso ako po si Suzie Entrata-Abrera at ang tanong ko sa inyong lahat ay nakaboto na ba kayo? Ako po’y humiling ng afternoon shift para po ako ay makaboto kaninang umaga. At para don sa mga hindi pa nakakaboto pwede po kayong humabol dahil hanggang 7 p.m. pa bukas ang ating mga voting precincts. (Said something) Daig pa kayo ng mga Kapuso nating nasa abroad dahil kahit malayo sa Pilipinas po ang ilan po sa kanila ay nakaboto na rin. Nagawa po nila ‘yan sa pamamagitan ng overseas absentee voting. At ang ilan sa kanila ay makaka-usap po natin dito sa ating E13 Hangout, ang tambayan mo ngayong Eleksyon 2013. Bongga na po ang mga tumatambay ngayon, high-tech na po ngayon. Magsisilbing open forum ang ating E13 Hangout para pagsama-samahin po ang mga eksperto naten, ilang mga kandidato at ordinaryong mga mamamayan upang talakayin ang mga importanteng detalye, isyu at problema ngayong eleksyon. Ayan. Eto po mula sa Italya nako isa sa mga paboritong puntahan ng mga Pinoy ‘yan siyempre ka-hangout natin si YouScooper Carlos Simbilio. Hello Carlos!

Carlos Simbilio: Ah magandang umaga po sa inyo lahat diyan dito po sa Florence, Italy ako po si Carlos Simbilio.

Abrera: Ayan thank you so much for joining us Carlos. Work day diyan ngayon ano, Monday tama ba?

Carlos: Yes, opo.

Abrera: Ayon, so maraming salamat for joining us, umabsent ka yata ngayon.

Carlos: Ay hindi naman ho.

Abrera: Hindi naman (laughs). Kasama din naman naten from Hong Kong, same ang time zone naten, si Leo Concepcion. Hi Leo!

Leo Concepcion: Hello good afternoon.

Abrera: Good afternoon. Ayan mamaya kakamustahin natin ang pagboto mo diyan sa Hong Kong kasi marami yata kayong nakaboto diyan. Ayan. Thanks for joining us Leo. Mula naman sa San Francisco, USA ka-hangout natin si YouScooper George Ganghe. Hello there George!

George Ganghe: Hi Susie. Magandang umaga, ah, hapon po sa inyong lahat.

Abrera: Anong oras po diyan sa inyo, George.

George: Alas-dose pasado na po ng umaga.

Abrera: Nako, walang tulugan si Sir George para makasama tayo dito sa ating E13 Hangout, thank you so much. At bilang tagapamahala ng overseas absentee voting kasama rin po tayo, kasama rin po natin, mula sa Department of Foreign Affairs si Undersecretary Jose Brillantes. Hello po USec!

USec. Jose Brillantes: Ah, hello, and good afternoon to you Susie and ah to the rest of your ah, group there.

Abrera: Mga ka-hangout po naten. Bago na mga hangout naten ngayon. At narito rin po si COMELEC Spokesperson Director James Jimenez. Good afternoon Director James!

Dir. Jimenez: Good afternoon! Hello, magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

Abrera: And of course kasama po natin si Mr. Renato Garcia, Information and Technology Consultant ng Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting or PPCRV. Hello po Mr. Garcia, thank you po for joining us.

Mr. Garcia: Magandang hapon naman sa ‘yo Susie. At sa ‘ting lahat na kababayan sa iba’t ibang lugar ng ating mundo.

Abrera: It’s wonderful to be with all of you this afternoon po, at makausap po kayo tungkol sa ating mga experiences ngayong eleksyon. At siyempre, iniimbitahan po naten ang ating mga Kapuso online, kahit saang sulok man kayo ng mundo pwede kayo makisali sa ating usapan, i-type lamang po sa inyong browser ang URL address na www.gmanews.tv/E13Hangout at maari niyo pong i-follow ang @gmanews sa Twitter at i-tweet ang inyong mga tanong at opinyon gamit ang ating official hashtag #E13Hangout. At bago po ang lahat, Dir. Jimenez, ano po ang ginagawa naman ng COMELEC dun sa mga palyadong PCOS machines? Medyo may mga reported na po tayong mga palyadong PCOS machines.

Dir. Jimenez: Well ah, sa ngayon minomonitor natin ‘yung mga instances kung saan nirereport nila ‘yan, at ah, in some cases nagpapadala tayo ng ano, ng, replacement machines, and in some cases na mukhang hindi talaga natin mahahabol mayroon tayong mga contingency measures kung saan ah, inuutos natin na yung mga balota ilalagay sa isang receptacle and then later on ifi-feed sa isang working PCOS machine. Siyempre lahat ‘yon nagaganap with witnesses and with notice to the parties.

Abrera: Ah, they were saying na meron tayong mga around 2,000 na mga, yung mga pwedeng magtroubleshoot ng mga PCOS machines, how far is one troubleshooter from an actual PCOS machine in case na magkaroon ng problema?

Dir. Jimenez: Well yung troubleshooter naten, yung yung ah tech assistance naten is normally assigned to ah voting center. So ibig sabihin kapag nagkaproblema sa isang voting ah precinct, which is the unit no within a larger polling center, mabilis naman siyang mapupuntahan. Ang time talaga is taken doon sa delivery ng replacement PCOS po.

Abrera: Right. How many do we have na replacement PCOS? Actual machines?

Dir. Jimenez: Uhm, we have about 80,000, 81,000 machines, but that's not the ano ah, that's not the backup. Ah, we're gonna be using, we're using actually about 78,000 machines. So it's the difference no

Abrera: Right. 3,000.

Dir. Jimenez: Yeah, about 4,000. Ganon, Ang ating mga backup.

Abrera: 'Yun yung inyong backup. At si Mr. Garcia naman po. Base po sa inyong monitoring, ano po ang nangyari bat marami pong ah nasisirang PCOS machines? Ano po ang balita ng mga, bantay natin sa PPCRV, whom I must say po sir na ah, they do such excellent work nga pala po pagdating sa mga polling precincts.

Mr. Garcia: Maganda-ganda naman po ang lumalabas na turnout, kasi nung 2010, umabot ng mahigit 400 ang ah PCOS machines na bumigay. Pero ngayon wala pang mga 100 palang no, although kalahating araw palang tayo, mas preparado naman tayo ngayon dahil may ekperiyensiya na tayo.

Abrera: Right. Speaking of preparation naman po USec Brillantes, kamusta naman po ang naging preparasyon po natin para sa ah overseas absentee voting this year?

USec Brillantes: Ah yung, matagal na po yung ah ginagawa naten. Almost ah, two years ang preparation nito and ah we receive our instructions as agents actually, of the COMELEC. So meron po tayong registration period...

Abrera: Yes.

USec Brillantes: ...ginawa po 'yan last November. Tapos eh yun naman pong ah asking them to go out and vote...

Abrera: Yes.

USec Brillantes: ...yan po ay tinutuloy hanggang ngayon. Ah, pinaghandaan po lahat-lahat 'yan, at ah, nagtayo kami ng isang monitoring center dito para naman mamonitor ngayon lahat ng nangyayari overseas habang bumuboto dito sa Maynila ay bumuboto din po sa lahat ng ating mga posts. Ang kaibahan lamang po ay ah our overseas absentee voters or our OFWs (muffled audio), buhat pa po nung ah April 13 (?) until today ay bumuboto na po sila.

Abrera: So basta po may embahada tayo or consulada dun po sila talaga pupunta?

USec Brillantes: As a general rule, oo, at ah meron pong mangilan-ngilan, kahit po walang embahada o walang consulado ay meron po tayong mga voting center.

Abrera: Ah, yun naman po. At meron po tayong mga natanggap na katanungan mula sa Facebook. Kung sakaling pumalya muli ang replacement PCOS ng isang precinct naman, ano ang susunod step ng COMELEC director Jimenez? So napalitan na, pero pano pag kunyare may pumalya, yung pinampalet pumalya ulet.

Dir. Jimene: Well ah, kung pumalya ulit yung pinalit na, dun papasok yung ating contingency measure kung saan ah we'll just set the ballots aside for feeding sa working PCOS later on.

Abrera: Alright. Si Mr. Garcia naman po. Ano po yung coordination niyo po with ah, let's say the BEI or the COMELEC, when things like this happen? Kunyare yung mga palyadong machine, who actually reports and [to] whom do you report kapag may ganitong nangyare?

Mr. Garcia: Yeah. Well meron ding monitoring center ang PPCRV pero ang maganda dito sa 'ting sistema dahil paper ballot based ballot nga siya, so, yung ating balota eh pwede namang ihulog pa rin sa ballot box, tapos eh tsaka nga ifi-feed sa PCOS machine...

Abrera: Right.

Mr. Garcia: ...pagka kung anong available, kung sa katabing presinto, tapos na sila, pwedeng dun gamitin yung kanilang makina pagkatapos.

Abrera: May sinasabi din po sila na pagka ah, naka-input po per machine yung voting precinct lang po na dapat fini-feed na mga, na mga balota don. Paano po 'yon 'pag may iniimport kayo na mga ibang balota po, ah, Sir James.

Dir. Jimenez: Hindi kami nag-iimport, in fact isa nga 'yan sa mga naging problema natin kanina. Kung saan yung mga balota for Compostela Valley was mixed up with ballots from Compostela.

Abrera: Alright.

Dir. Jimenez: So parang nagkapalit sila no. So hindi pwede pagpalitin 'yon kasi the ballots are unique for each PCOS for each municipality. So hindi na... Kapag nangyaring magkaroon ng ganong ano ah switch as happened in ah Baguio today, hindi sila nakapagbotohan don sa presinto na 'yon.

Abrera: Oh. Meron po kaming ano naman, Facebook question naman, si Anna Viray. This is about naman the precinct finder na siyempre marami na pong mga high-tech ngayon katulad naten dito sa E13 Hangout, so chinicheck po nila sa precinct finder ng COMELEC nakalog-in daw siya kanina hindi daw siya rehistrado pero nakita daw niya three weeks ago na registered siya. Pero nung siguro dinouble-check niya kanina bago siya bumoto, hindi na raw siya rehistrado. What could have happened bakit hindi ah, nagiging consistent.

Dir. Jimenez: Well ang tanong ko muna is kung nakaboto na ba siya today? Kung nakita niyang registered siya three weeks ago, mas mainam sana kung dumiretso na siya ng boto ngayon...

Abrera: Ah, I see. Right.

Dir. Jimenez: ...kung nakita niya kase, remember recently nagkaproblema tayo eh. Nagkaproblema tayo with ah ano, with the website. Bumagal ng husto, and in fact, there are some people who are saying na cyber attack daw 'yon, no. So, now that you're looking at the results now, then maybe siguro, hindi na, hindi siya ganon ka-ano, ka, ka-accurate.

Abrera: Right.

Dir. Jimenez: So there's a strong possibility that even the data might have been compromised. But then again, today is Election Day. Kung ngayon mo pa lang chinicheck 'yung presinto mo, eh don't waste your time checking it online. Go to the precinct na...

Abrera: Just go, oo. Just go.

Dir. Jimenez: ...oo, vote na lang 'don diba.

Abrera: Oo, just go. Mr. Garcia, when they actually get there, tapos ah, I'm sure baka may iba don nadidisappoint kasi PPCRV yung sumasalubong sa kanila tapos wala yung kanilang pangalan sa listahan, ano po yung nagiging advice niyo dun sa kanila, yung mga akala nila pwede silang bumoto?

Mr. Garcia: Yeah. Tinutulungan naman sila na hanapin yung kanilang mga pangalan. Nandon yung iba-ibang mga electoral watchdogs, ah, na tumutulong, at ah, maayos naman. Ako nakapagboto ako ng kinse minutos lang tapos na.

Abrera: Actually, marami pong mga positive responses sa online media nga na sinasabi nilang naging maayos at mabilis yung ibang mga presinto. Of course not all. Pero ah, overall naging maganda yung mga experience nung ating mga kababayan. Eto naman po ah, si USec ah Brillantes, kamusta po, naging maayos po ba ang overall na pagboto sa iba't ibang embahada naten?

USec Brillantes: (muffled audio) Ah natatangap naming reports and ah all our posts are required to submit daily reports. Sa kanila po namang mga reports ay maayos po lahat ng botohan doon at ah, hanggang sa oras na ito, medyo may ilang posts na mga nahihirapan dahil sa...

Abrera: Yes.

USec Brillantes: ...ang botohan nila doon ay kasabay din po ng botohan natin dito.

Abrera: Okay.

USec Brillantes: Kung nagbubukas po tayo ng alas siyete kaninang umaga hanggang alas siyete ng gabi, kung ano po iyon dun sa Amerika, o sa Europe, ganon din ang oras ng botohan nila. So may mga bumuboto doon ng gabi, hating-gabi, yung equivalent time.

Abrera: Ah, I see. Eto naman po. Kamustahin naman po natin ang mga nakaboto na po diyan, unahin natin si George, at ah napakaraming Pilipino diyan sa may Bay Area ng

Amerika kung saan matatagpuan ang San Francisco. Naging maayos ba ang ah botohan diyan, George?

George: Ah, opo. At ah, nagagalak po akong ibalita sa inyo na napaka-ayos po ng botohan dito sa Bay Area sa San Francisco Philippine Consulate General at ah ang lahat po ng kanilang team ay tumutulong sa mga botante ho. Wala pong problema. Ako po ay bumoto dapat sa, by mail, pero ah dahil po nagkaron ako ng, nadelay po ang pagdating sa mail, ay nagdecide na po kami ng aking maybahay na pumunta na sa San Francisco consulate at mamasyal na ron para i-drop-off yung aming ballot para mabilang sa official na bilangan po. Para...

Abrrera: So okay lang ‘yon na parang medyo salisi, kumbaga pinadala nila sa ‘yo, pero hindi agad dumating yung mail, pero kayo na mismo ang pumunta sa ano sa embahada.

George: Opo. Sumulat po ako sa opisina po ni Ambassador or Consul General Paynor, na siyang namumuno dito sa amin sa San Francisco, pero marami pang siyam na states po rito sa Amerika na sakop ng San Francisco. Ah, sa loob po ng sampung minuto sumagot po agad sila at sinabi po na, pinaliwanag na balota po namin ay galing sa Manila COMELEC, kila Mr. Jimenez, at kapag ah bumalik po sa kanila at ah, sa iba, dahil po sa mga problema na change of address na ganun po...

Abrrera: Yes, yes.

George: ...malalaman nila. At ah yun pong mga yun pinopost po naman nila sa kanilang website at sa iba pang mga pamamaraan. Napakaganda po; maraming contingency plan na ginagawa rito, at ah, ‘yun hong pati Sabado at Linggo, kagaya ng sinabi ni Secretary ah Jose Brillantes, meron pong nagtatrabaho para tumanggap ng boto ng ating mga kababayan, Sabado, Linggo mula alas-nuebe hanggang alas-singko ng hapon.

Abrrera: Napakaganda naman po ng feedback niyo na ibinigay ninyo diyan George at ah kami po ay nagagalak na nagkakaran din ng pagkakataon siyempre ang mga kababayan natin na nasa ibang bansa na makaboto at maging bahagi po ng pagpili ng mga magiging mga bagong lider kumbaga ng ating bansa. Thank you so much, George.

George: Wala pong anuman. Amin pong karangalan ‘yon.

Abrrera: Salamat po. At tayo naman ay lilipat sa Italya, ganun-ganon lang po makakalipat na tayo agad sa Italya at kasama natin pa ren si Carlos. Carlos kamusta naman, paano naging takbo ng overseas absentee voting diyan sa inyo?

Carlos: Ah dito po sa Florence, Italy, ay naging maayos ang, ang naging sistema ng botohan sa pangunguna ng ating honorary consulate ah, at ang ating honorary consul na si Dr. Repabio Pampani (?), ginawa po nila lahat ng kanilang magagawa para sa mga information campaign, para sa ating mga OFW na makaboto at makapagparehistro dito sa overseas absentee voting.

Ah, isang bagay lamang po, ah, medyo ah sa time na po na ‘to, medyo konti po ang mga Pilipinong naboto, dahil po sa mga ilang kadahilanan.

Abrrera: Ano po yung mga ‘yon?

Carlos: Ah dahil po sa paghahanap nila ng kanilang mga pangalan, hindi po nila nakita ang kanilang mga pangalan at hindi po nila nareceive ang kanilang electoral list. At ang iba naman po ay mga nagpalit ng address at ang karamihan dahil po sa season ng graduation sa Pilipinas, halos karamihan po ay nasa bakasyon ngayon at hindi pa bumabalik...

Abrrera: Ahhh...

Carlos: At yung iba naman po, malungkot kong sabihin ah, wala po silang interes. At...

Abrrera: Oo...

Carlos: At sinasabi po na sila raw po ay parang nawalan na ng tiwala, pero po sana po ay hindi naman sa ganon.

Abrrera: At magkaroon pa rin tayo at manatili pa rin tayong may pag-asa di ba. Eto ay balita ko meron ka daw nakilalang Pinay na 30 years na daw na di nakakaboto, tama ba Carlos?

Carlos: Ah opo. Dito po yon sa Florence, Italy, at ah siya po ay nasaksihan naming ang pagboto, at mismo po ang ating ambassador ah ang mismong nakasaksi at ang ating honorary consul ah siya po ay 30 years ng hindi nakakaboto magmula pa po sa sa national elections sa atin hanggang 2004 dito sa nag-start sa overseas absentee voting hanggang 2007, 2010. Ngayon po, ngayon lamang po siya nakaboto

Abrrera: Bat ngayon lang daw siya nakaboto, matagal na pala ang ano diyan, overseas absentee voting?

Carlos: ‘Yun na nga po ang sinasabi. Dahil po sa trabaho dito ng mga OFW, wala pong kasiguruhan at sa kaabalahan.

Abrrera: Ayan di sila nakakaboto, pero I’m sure she was very happy na finally at ah siya ay nakaboto?

Carlos: Opo napakasaya, kaya nga po si Ambassador Virgilio Reyes Jr. ay mismong nakausap pa siya at ah nagpakuha po sila ng picture at video bilang pasasalamat...

Abrrera: Yes...

Carlos: ...bilang pasasalamat at pagkilala.

Abrrera: Nako maraming salamat sa ‘yo Carlos at siyempre sana manatili ang iyong ah paninindigan na maging bahagi ng eleksyon dito sa atin sa Pilipinas. Thank you, Carlos.

Carlos: Maraming salamat din po at ah ang pamunuan po dito ng ating konsulado ay hindi po nagpapabaya at ginagawa po nila ang lahat para sa ating mga kababayang Pinoy OFW.

Abrera: Nako napaka... Siguro napakasaya ni USec Brillantes na marinig ang mga salitang ‘yan mula sa ‘yo Carlos. James how happy are you with the turnout of the elections this year?

USec Brillantes: Totoo ‘yon Susie...

Dir. Jimenez: Well ah, ang turnout ng elections sa overseas. Of course, like like they’ve been saying marami talagang dahilan kung bakit hindi sila lahat nakakaboto but I think at least nakikita natin yung simula nung ah dedikasyon nung mga kababayan natin don na talagang nagiging ano sila, they’re being drawn in no, and I think that’s a good start.

Abrera: It’s wonderful. Is it easier now kasi parang things are a lot more parang accessible, kung baga online, they can search for things...

Dir. Jimenez: Yeah...

Abrera: ...they can research on the candidates.

Dir. Jimenez: Right. And then of course, nakatulong den siyempre yung mga ginagawa natin dito. Halimbawa yung ah, pagpalabas nung ah Internet ng mga programa ninyo, halimbawa. Nakikita nila ‘yan, nakakagenerate kasi ng interest ‘yan eh. Ah yun yung isa sa mga problema dati, medyo nararamdaman natin na parang hiwalay tayo mula sa ibang bayan kasi hindi natin napapanood. Ngayon, things are different.

Abrera: And they access everything pretty much online no...

Dir. Jimenez: (nods) Exactly.

Abrera: ...so now that we’re active online, kasama na natin sila. USec Brillantes, some of the things they’re saying na parang nahihirapan sila bumoto, do you think the voting period should be longer para sa overseas absentee voters?

USec Brillantes: Well I think yung ah 30-day period is long enough, it gives them the chance to vote within that particular period. Ang ah problema talaga ay ang ating mga kababayan, bagamat ah ang ah tinatawag na absentee voting ay ah isi, isinabatas, dahil sa kanilang pakiusap, ay talaga pong ang kanilang unang pakay pagka sila ay nasa overseas ay ang maghanapbuhay.

Abrera: Yes.

USec Brillantes: Unang una po ang ating ah araw ng halalan ay Lunes so maaring marami pong hindi makapunta kaya binigyan po yan ng 30-days.

Abrera: Right.

USec Brillantes: But still ah, hanapbuhay po ang kanilang main thrust doon. And yet ah yung turnout eh pwede pa nating mapaganda at salamat sa GMA at ah, yung suporta po ninyo ay nagbigay ng mas malawak na ah kaalaman ang ating mga OFWs overseas.

Abrera: Ahm, dito naman po meron ahm we'd like to go back sa mga naging problema nila lalo na sa Italya na nabanggit ni Carlos na minsan ah yung mga pangalan eh wala sa listahan kaya hindi sila nakakaboto.

Dir. Jimenez: Ah, okay. Ahm, 'yung listahan kase, ah problema 'yan dito sa, I mean, you know, ah kami, kami ang responsible for that.

Abrera: Right.

Dir. Jimenez: So I guess you can say COMELEC is responsible for that. Ah, kini-clean-up naming yung list ngayon no pero kasi ang difference dito is that sa overseas actually lumilipat ka ng listahan. So sometimes it's in the transferring of the name that that ah we're encountering some sort of gap, no, na yung iba...

Abrera: Lumilipat ka ng listahan from where to where?

Dir. Jimenez: From local to overseas ah...

Abrera: Right.

Dir. Jimenez: ...roll of voters or list of voters.

Abrera: Uhuh.

Dir. Jimenez: So sometimes, dun sa application na 'yon, dun sa transfer na 'yon, baka dun na nagkakaproblema. We're looking into it now ano, just like we're looking into questions about yung nabanggit po ni sir from San Francisco, yung delay in the delivery. So kasama 'yan sa improvements na pinapasok naten for 2016.

Abrera: Right, right. And ano, through the years parang pag ano, as we go on with elections parang there's more improvement and we'd like to go once again to Mr. Garcia. Yung PPCRV po ba ay meron din po ba siyang monitoring sa mga ah Filipinos abroad?

Mr. Garcia: Mula nung ano nga, nung simula nun eh, nagmonitor din ang PPCRV. Ang ah gusto ko rin lang ipaalam ang maganda rin dito ngayon dahil nga sa teknolohiya eh mas marami tayong nagagawa na ngayon. Darating din ang araw hindi na sila kailangan pupunta sa embahada, baka pwede na silang bumoto sa kanilang mga lugar sa pamamagitan ng gamit ng teknolohiya gaya nitong ah Internet at ginagawa natin ngayon.

Abrera: Yes, yes. And of course Leo hindi ka namin pwedeng kalimutan diyan sa Hong Kong dahil napakaraming mga kababayan natin ang bumuboto diyan. Tama ba na automated ang ah overseas absentee voting ninyo diyan?

Leo: Oo, tama 'yon Susie. Ah actually napaka, ah, napaka-efficient nung system dito ahm, based on my experience pumunta lang ako sa ah, sa precinct, siguro mga ten minutes lang tapos ahm na yung buong proseso ng pagboto ko.

Abrera: Right.

Leo: Saka, siguro idadagdag ko lang nakakatuwa dito sa Hong Kong. Bukod dun sa consulate na sobrang ah, sobrang inayos ‘yung proseso para sa mga kababayan natin, maraming mga volunteer, volunteer groups na ah tumulong para maging usher, maging usherette, magbigay ng information. Ahm, isa pa yung ah, kasi yung iba may mga kababayan tayo na nasa medyo malayong lugar. Ah malayo yung...

Abrrera: Yes.

Leo: ...ah yung pinanggalingan nila doon sa presinto. Ah nagprovide yung consulate saka yung ibang mga kompanya dito...

Abrrera: Wow...

Leo: ...ng ah ng shuttle, shuttle bus para ihatid sila sa presinto, dun sa presinto.

Abrrera: That is wonderful to hear! Ikaw ba Leo first time mo bang bumoto ngayon diyan?

Leo: Ah hinde pangalawang beses kong pagboto.

JC: So masasabi mo ba na may improvement from the last time that you voted?

Leo: Ah masasabi ko sobra yung, malaki yung improvement in terms of information dissemination. Kase bukod dun sa ah pagbibigay ng information don mismo sa consulate office uhm...

Abrrera: Oo...

Leo: ...ginamit, sobra yung paggamit ng ano eh social media nung ah, nung mga involved. Ah yung, yung, merong ditong overseas absentee voting Hong Kong Facebook page, ahm, merong ganung, merong ganung istrategiya para ma-reach yung iba ano, mga kababayan natin dito. Kaya... Siguro yung reason kaya maraming, maraming, maraming, marami yung mga nakaboto ngayon. Ang, ang sa pagkaka-alam ko mga 27,000 na yata...

Dir. Jimenez: Wow.

Leo: ...yung nakaboto as of yesterday.

Dir. Jimenez: Wow.

Abrrera: And that’s wonderful to hear. Nako natutuwa siyempre yung mga kasamahan natin dito, siyempre sa ano sa DFA, sa COMELEC, sa PPCRV na mas marami na sa ‘ten na hindi lang interesado bumoto, kundi mas accessible na sa kanila para bumoto. Sana may mga shuttle bus den sa ibang mga lugar diyan sa may Italya or kung ano mang makakatulong sa Amerika para mas marami pang makaboto at makilahok dito sa ating eleksyon.

USec Brillantes: Susie pasensya ka na baka makasingit lang...

Abrrera: Yes po.

USec Brillantes: ...yung sinasabi ni Leo na sabi niya eh maraming bumoto sa Hong Kong. Actually, ang number 1 na sa voting turnout ay Hong Kong...

Abrera: Wow!

USec Brillantes: ...sa top ten po naman ay kasama ang US at kasama din po ang Italy. Kaya't ah, congratulations diyan sa GMA baka hindi po ninyo sinasadya pero ang napili ninyong makasama dito ay puro nasa top ten sa voting sa overseas.

Abrera: Nako magagaling po talaga yung mga kasamahan ko dito mukhang pinili talaga mga the best of the best no. Pero maraming salamat po siyempre alam naman natin malaki ang concentration ng mga Pilipino diyan po sa ah Hong Kong, at saka po sa Italy tsaka sa United States and we're hoping po... Middle East po sir kamusta po ang ano, voter turnout natin don. Marami ding Pilipino don.

Dir. Jimenez: Oo. Ang balita ko naman sa Middle East kase dun ako na-assign ano no, sa Kuwait, actually, very active naman din yung mga botante, and ah, ngayon ine-expect nila mga later this afternoon matatapos sila magbotohan don, maganda naman daw ang turnout. Ahm, I don't think na ano, na mata-topple natin yung Hong Kong but ah, certainly, maraming bumuboto dahil ah automated na rin po sila don.

Abrera: Oo... Ah automated, so alin pong mga areas ang automated na bukod sa Hong Kong at Singapore?

Dir. Jimenez: Well you have ah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, ahm, Kuwait and ah, sir...

USec Brillantes: Singapore.

Dir. Jimenez: Yung dalawa nakalimutan ko. (Laughs)

USec Brillantes: Singapore yung isa, tsaka ah Riyadh, oo.

Dir. Jimenez: One more sir. Somewhere in the middle (Laughs)

USec Brillantes: Dubai, Dubai.

Dir. Jimenez: Dubai, Dubai, yes.

USec Brillantes: And Jeddah.

Abrera: Jeddah po?

Dir. Jimenez: Jeddah.

Abrera: So sa Europe wala pa tayo, or is that magiging part of the plans sa 2016 na isama na ren ang certain countries in Europe katulad ng Italy?

Dir. Jimenez: Well, patuloy po ang pag-eexpand ng coverage naten as we're getting better at this no. Ah, so in the future, hindi siguro malayong makita naten na pwede rin tayo sa Europa. Pero, yun na nga, sa ngayon po ah, ulitin ko lang para para malinis no. There's Jeddah, there's Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and ah... I forgot it again...

USec Brillantes: Singapore and Hong Kong.

Dir. Jimenez: No sir, yung sa Middle East po, Middle East.

Abrera: Riyadh?

Dir. Jimenez: Riyadh. Riyadh, yes.

Abrera: Riyadh. So okay, I know that we're going back a little bit, pero we'd like to ask once again, what is the ano (video was cut from 28:10 to 28:36)

Dir. Jimenez: One month, 30 days, 30 days.

Abrera: Alright. And then USec Brillantes, meron din kami dito na nag-tweet kasi sa amen, at nabanggit din actually ni Carlos kanina na yung iba kase, nagbabakasyon dito sa Pilipinas kasi summer dito sa atn. May isa dito taga Abu Dhabi siya, nagkataon na nandito siya ngayon sa Pilipinas, wala na po siyang chance mag-vote?

USec Brillantes: Ah. Actually kaya mayrong 30 days, ay pwede nila i-adjust, no. Pero kung postal voting, miski nandito sila sa Pilipinas, maaring i-mail pa nila yung kanilang ah balota to mean that they received it before their...

Abrera: Right.

USec Brillantes: ...vacation.

Abrera: Kumbaga isama nila sa mga plano nila yung pagboto na 'yon.

USec Brillantes: Opo.

Abrera: Sa kanilang vacation plans. Balikan siyempre natin ulet ang ating mga ah, mga voters di ba. Ahm, Carlos, anong naging batayan mo sa pagpili ng iyong mga binoto?

Carlos: Ah, sa akin ay, sinuri kong maigi at ah pinili ang ating iniisip na magiging karapat-dapat na ayon sa aking puso at konsiyensiya. Dahil sa sila ang inisip ko na magiging ah, mga lider, ay, sinisigurado ko na ah, tama ang aking naging pagboto.

Abrera: Oo, dapat.

Carlos: Pwede pong magsingit sandali, ah, regarding po sa mga nagbabakasyon na hindi nakakaboto.

Abrera: Yes.

Carlos: Ah, sa atin po kasi dito sa, dahil sa taunan po bago maka-uwi ang mga OFW, ah inaabot po sila ng mahigit isang buwan, minsan may inaabot po ng isa't kalahati, may dalawang buwan para makapagbakasyon sa Pilipinas. At kahit po sila ay gumawa ng paraan na makapagpa-register, kung wala naman po silang paraan din na makakaboto dahil sa isang buwan lang po ang taning para makaboto. 'Yun po sana kung magkaroon ng expansion sa pagboto, ah, kagaya kung dati po ay 2009 ay nagkaroon po tayo ng massive dissemination campaign...

Abrera: Uhuh.

Carlos: Ah, magkaroon din po sana ng information drive para sa mga hindi nakapagparehistro, mabigyan din po sila ng tsansa na makapagparegister, at yun lamang po, dahil sa aking pananaw po, maganda po yung ah mga ginawa po nila DFA Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, pero dahil po sa kabusihan ng ating mga kababayan, kulang pa rin po siguro an gang kanilang oras at panahon dahil sa kanilang mga trabaho.

Abrera: Na mukhang acknowledged naman yata ni USec Brillantes ano po, na parang binaggit niyo kanina na, ang reason nila for being in that, in another country is for work.

USec Brillantes: Yes, opo, tama po.

Abrera: And more improvements to come. Si George naman, galing diyan sa US and marami tayong kababayan diyan. Kayo ba ay merong mga pagpupulong na ginawa sa inyong mga pamilya o mga kabarkada diyan para makapili ng mga tamang iboboto dito?

George: Marami po sa amin ay ginamit po ang social media (upang) ipamahagi ang aming pinili or bakit namin pinili ang kandidatong ito, na makatutulong sa pag-unlad at patuloy na pagyabong ng ating peace and order at ekonomiya sa bansang Pilipinas po.

Abrera: Right, right. Gano katagal...

George: At ah...

Abrera: ... go ahead.

George: Go ahead, Susie.

Abrera: Gaano katagal ka na diyan sa Amerika?

George: Ah, nagpunta po ako dito nung January 1973 po.

Abrera: Kelan po?!

George: Enero 1973.

Abrera: 1973?!

George: Opo.

Dir. Jimenez: Madagdag ko lang ma'am, makisingit lang.

Abrera: Go ahead Sir James!

Dir. Jimenez: Pinanganak ako February 1973.

Abrera: In that case pinanganak ako ng June 1974 (?) Naglabasan tayong lahat ng mga, ng mga (said something). Pero how amazing because, you are still so active to vote, George, you've been away from the country for 40 years, no?

George: Opo.

Abrrera: That's fantastic.

George: Inspirado po ako sa mga nagtatrabaho gaya ni James at Mr. Brillantes although ah, kinalulungkot ko po na si Bro. James ay ahm, na-disenfranchise po ah, at...

Dir. Jimenez: (laughs) Pano niyo nalaman 'yon?

Abrrera: Na-disenfranchise ka James?!

George: At ah ako po ay ah, bago po sana, bago po sana matapos to, may tanong po ako kay James...

Abrrera: Go ahead, go ahead George.

George: Ang tanong ko po kay James, ay para, three-fold question po. Para maiwasan po, marami pong kababayan natin ang kagaya ninyo na, hindi nakakaboto ng dalawang beses ay natatangal sa listahan. Sana po ang rules na ito ay pwedeng mabago at para sayang lang po ang oras at pera pag ano, pagbubura at pagbabalik. Sana po ay huwag na natin pong ah, meron pong magsulong nito sa ating Kongreso, na mabago. Kagaya po ng nababasa namin at nababalitaan namin, sa susunod na taon po, kung may katotohanan po ba ang sinasabi po ni Senator Pimentel na, last February 5 po ay na-aprubahan na po ang kanyang sinusulong na pagbabago sa Voters Act po ng 2003 na tutungo sa computerization ho na makaka-solve sa problema ng mga taga-Italy at ah na sinasabi ni Mr. Brillantes na economic reason na propensity ng voting population po ay dahil po sa, ano, paghahanapbuhay. Maiiwasan po sa, kung totoo man po yung sinasabi ni Senator Pimentel na nakapasa ito, sabihin niyo sa akin kung totoong nakapasa na ito ang registration po at pagboto ay makikita po natin sa darating na 2016 election, at kung napirmahan na po ni Presidente Aquino itong, ito, ito po ang katanungan ko sa inyo, James, palagay ko 'yung ibang pinagdidiscussionan natin makakasolve sa problema na 'yan.

Dir. Jimenez: 'Yung tungkol sa ah problema ko po, ah, maganda pong panukala 'yon. Actually, naririnig ko na rin 'yan. Mas maganda sana kung huwag na lang magdelist o magdeactivate ng registration kasi total, registered naman.

George: Opo.

Dir. Jimenez: Ahm, sige po, ah, titignatin kung ano ang magagawa natin to propose that, kasi ang COMELEC po ay may kapangyarihan naman na magpropose ng ah legislation ano, or at the very least, the amendments. So, meron naman pong, I think, logical basis for that. Yung sinasabi po ni Senator Pimentel, opo, naipasa po 'yung batas na 'yon, at ah, hindi ko lang masabi sa inyo kung anong date napirmahan ng presidente, pero sa pagkakaalam ko po, yun ay law na po, batas na po. So makikita na natin 'yan by 2016.

George: So yung mga problema po nating pinag-uusapan ay makakasolve na po yung batas na ito palagay ho ah...

Dir. Jimenez: Sa tingin ko po malaking hakbangin ano, sa paglulutas ng mga problema natin ito.

George: Maraming salamat po at sa, sa, yung mga 13 million po nating kababayan sa buong mundo, kahit kalahati lang po non ay makaboto, at magbabago ang landscape ng election sa atin.

Abrera: Totoo yan.

Dir. Jimenez: Napakalaking pagbabago po niyan, sigurado ‘yan.

Abrera: Maraming salamat, George. And of course ah, USec Brillantes, eto ah, patapos na po ang ating programa, pero gusto lang po naming malaman, bakit napakahalaga po ng overseas absentee voting kahit po medyo low turnout siya?

USec Brillantes: Bakit napaka?

Abrera: Napakahalaga pa rin po ng ating ah makuha po ang kanilang mga boto kahit na usually kalahati lang ang turnout?

USec Brillantes: Ah yes. In spite of the low turnout, nakikita naman po natin na sila ay nagpupursigi. At saka katotohanan po, ah, meron po yang mga epekto dito sa ‘tin sa Pilipinas lalong lalo na po, na kanilang members of their families na naiwanan dito, sila actually ang mga breadwinners, sila ang maiiinfluence sa kanilang mga naiwanan ng pamilya dito. Kung ano po ang kanilang maging impluwensya sa kanila, maari rin pong maimpluwensiyahan ang ah pagboto ng kanilang mga kababayan dito so its not just a one vote, one town...

Abrera: Yes.

USec Brillantes: It is ah, it has a multiplier effect. ‘Yun pong bumoto sa overseas na nagtrabaho doon, at dependent po ang kanyang mga pamilya dito sa kanila, ay malamang sundan din po ang kanyang kagustuhan. Kaya’t ah, kahit na po hindi sila nakaboto kung minsan alam din po nila kung sino ang gusto nilang maiboto rito. Maliban pa po diyan, eh, gaya nga potentially about ah 10 million or even more strong and ah, therefore, they have a right to input into what they want to see will be the future of the Philippines in terms of ah our way of life, our culture, our policies, our investments, ah, our future. Kaya ang amin pong ginagamit dito ay ah, ang boto mo ay ah may kinalaman sa buong Pilipinas kahit ikaw ay nasa overseas.

Abrera: Totoo yan. Well said po, USec Brillantes. At ako po’y nagpapasalamat sa lahat po ng kasama natin dito at naka-hangout dito sa ating E13 Hangout. Maraming salamat po Mr. Renato Garcia ng PPCRV. Good job po sa lahat ng mga kasamahan ninyo sa PPCRV na talaga namang buong araw ang pagtatrabaho sa ating mga presinto. Maraming salamat po, sir.

Mr. Garcia: Marami ring salamat ah, sa pagkakataong ito, na makapagserbisyo pa rin sa inyo, sa, sa ‘ting bayan.

Abrera: And of course, Leo Concepcion mula diyan sa Hong Kong. Marami tayong kababayan na hardworking. Maraming salamat at sana dumami pa kayo na boboto sa next overseas absentee voting. Maraming salamat, Leo!

Leo: Maraming salamat din. And sana nga ah, sa next na election mas ah marami pang ah makaparticipate sa overseas absentee voting.

Abrera: Ayan. Yung mga kabataang katulad mo ang magpapakalat ng ano, magpapakalat ng impormasyon... Thank you so much Leo! And Carlos Simbillio mula sa Italy thank you so much sa inyo diyan, Carlos. Ingat kayo lagi mga kababayan natin diyan sa Italya at sa buong Europa.

Carlos: Maraming salamat din po, at si ah Mrs. Yasmin Davao po ang 30 years nang hindi nakaboto ay ito po ang magiging advocacy niya, ang ikampanya at ah makaboto ang ating mga kababayan na matagal na ring hindi bumuboto.

Abrera: Ay how wonderful. Pakipasalamat na rin po kami. Maraming salamat, Carlos!

Carlos: Maraming salamat rin po sa inyo at mabuhay po kayo.

Abrera: Salamat. And of course, George mula diyan sa United States of America na ginulat si James Jimenez sa kanyang pasabog na mga katanungan. Thank you, George!

George: At ah, hindi po, ah, saludo po ako sa COMELEC, na may political will po sila magdecide, kahit na hindi popular po. Mas mabuti po 'yon kaysa mga indecisive leaders ho. Kaya po salamat, James Jimenez at saka sa inyong grupo, at ah, malaki na po ang pagbubuti sa ating halalan. Nung araw po nung lumalaki kami ang sa atin, walang natatalo. Either nanalo po o nadaya...

Abrera: Oo nga.

George: Ngayon ay nag-iimprove na ho...

Abrera: Yes.

George: At dahil sa mga teknolohiya, kami'y nagpapasalamat nga ho sa inyo, kagaya ng sinabi mo kanina Susie, kahit na 40 years na kaming wala diyan, eh, involved pa kami. Ipinapakita po namin na kaming mga taga-Hong Kong, Italy at iba pong lugar, na hindi na kinakailangan ng platform ng Senado, Congress, barangay para tumulong sa ating bayan. Kaya yung sa mananal po, good luck. Sa matatalo, ay ipakita niyo na kayo'y natalo pero ipagpatuloy niyo ang inyong mga adbokasiya...

Abrera: Tama.

George: ...sa pagbubuti ng ating bayan. Maraming salamat, Susie.

Abrera: Maraming salamat, George. Well said! And of course USec Brillantes, maraming salamat po sa lahat ng trabahong ginawa ninyo para mas marami pa pong overseas absentee voters ang makapagparticipate pa so sa elections natin ngayon.

USec Brillantes: Salamat rin sa inyo, Susie and ah malaki po ang tulong na ginawa ninyo upang masuportahan itong ating overseas absentee voting.

Abrera: Thank you so much, sir. And of course, James, always a pleasure, maraming salamat. Good luck.

Dir. Jimenez: Okay. Ah, salamat po at ah masabi ko lang kay Sir George. Sir George, si USec Brillantes po ay kapatid ng aming Chairman sa COMELEC si Chairman Sixto Brillantes.

George: Ay sana po nandiyan pa ang inyong kapatid sa 2016 po. Maraming salamat po. Saludo po ako sa inyo.

Abrera: (Laughs)

George: Sabi niya, ang Pilipinas na lang ang kanyang kliyente ngayon, napakagaling po ninyo. Salamat po sa kanya.

Abrera: Runs in the family po yata talaga. Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. Okay mga Kapuso ‘yan po ang ating E13 Hangout para po sa ating overseas absentee voting. Maraming salamat po. Siyempre po sa lahat ng naki-hangout sa atin, and of course sa mga hindi pa nakakaboto. Pwede pa kayong humabol. Ang ating oras ay mag-aalas kuwatro pa lang. You have three hours to go at mamayang alas otso po ng gabi lalong mag-iinit ang ating Hangout dahil mga magkalaban naman po ang ating makakasama. Hot Rivals, susunod na po ‘yan. Sila ang mga mainit na magkakalaban ngayong eleksyon. Magkita-kita muli tayo mamaya alas-otso dito sa ating E13 Hangout, ang tambayan mo ngayong Eleksyon 2013. Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!

2. Election Day Problems and Resolutions

Lyn Ching-Pascual: Good morning, good morning mga Kapuso! Ako po si Lyn Ching-Pascual at isang makasaysayang araw po ito. Kasalukuyang pong ginaganap ang Eleksyon 2013 para sa ating National at Local positions. At sa ngalan po ng Serbisyong Totoo, mas pinalakas at mas pinalawak na Eleksyon 2013 coverage ang hatid sa inyo ng GMA News and Public Affairs. At hindi lang po sa TV niyo kami mapapanood, ha, dahil maging online sa pamamagitan ng E13, as you can see behind me, E13 Hangout, ang tambayan ngayon niyo ngayong Eleksyon 2013. Wala po tayong commercial break at dire-diretso po. Thirty minutes ha, na umaatikabong talakayan, usap-usapan ang ating ihahatid sa inyo online, mga Kapuso. Now, magsisilbing open forum po ang ating E13 Hangout na pagsasama-samahin po natin yung mga eksperto, ang kandidato at ordinaryong mamamayan, kasama natin ang mga (scoopers) and bloggers, everybody, upang talakayin ang mga importanteng detalye, important issues, details at siyempre problemang nakakaharap ninyo ngayong Eleksyon 2013.

At bukod po sa ating E13 Hangout marami ring pagbabago siyempre sa GMA News TV website ngayong eleksyon. Isa-isahin po naten. Nandiyan po ang Kandidato Buzz Index as you can see here (shows an iPad with the Kandidato Buzz Index on-screen), kung saan

makikita ninyo kung sino-sinong senatorial candidates ang pinakapinag-uusapan sa social media, sa pamamagitan ng laki ng kanilang larawan sa inyong screen. Whoever is the biggest, kumbaga, pinakamalaki ang kanilang picture then, sila po yung pinaka-pinag-uusapan, positive or negative, sila yung pinaka, ah, kumbaga eh, umaakyat sa (screams, iPad falls from her hands) pinag-uusapan. I destroyed one pad! Anyway, apart from that mga Kapuso, we also have the Voting Experience Poll na magsisilbi ‘tong database para malaman kung naging maayos ba o malinis ang eleksyon ngayong taon. As you can see mga questions dito (mumbled something), so kayo po mismo makaka-interact with us (said something). It’s under gmanetwork.com or GMA News so aantayin po namin ang inyong mga kasagutan there.

At ah, at ‘yan nga rin ang una nating pag-uusapan dito sa E13 Hangout. Handa na nga ba ang lahat para sa eleksyon 2013? Bumoto na po ba kayo? Kung hindi pa bumoto na kayo pagkatapos natin dito at kung may problema, paano ba natin ito mareresolba? Inimbitahan po natin ah, para makisali sa usapan, mapapanood... kayong lahat, iniimbitahang makasama natin sa ‘ting sa pag-uusapan dito sa E13 Hangout. At ah, mapapanood niyo po kami sa Internet, siyempre, at i-type lamang sa inyong browser ang URL address na www.gmanews.tv/E13Hangout/. ‘Yan. Mapapanood niyo kami sa Internet (mispronounces, laughs) o Internet. Again, i-type lamang ang www.gmanews.tv/E13Hangout/, magkalapit po yan so mga kaibigan, i-tweet niyo po ‘yan.

And speaking of Twitter, mga Kapuso, pwede kayong magbigay ng opinion at katanungan sa Twitter at sundan lamang ang Twitter account ng GMA News. Just @GMANews. Don’t forget the hashtag na #E13Hangout. ‘Yan. Kaya let’s work here, umpisahan na po natin ang ating pag-hangout. At kasama natin ngayong umaga, mga Kapuso, si Direktor James Jimenez ang tagapagsalita ng COMELEC at nandito po siya sa screen. Good morning, Director Jimenez!

Director James Jimenez: Good morning, Lyn. Good morning!

Pascual: Can I hear you say, “Good morning, sir!”?

Dir. Jimenez: Good morning, sir!

Pascual: (Laughs) I love your sense of humor, sir! Good morning, sir, and siyempre apart from Director Jimenez, makakasama rin natin si JC Maningat, isang researcher at blogger mula sa Batangas. Good morning, JC!

JC Malingat: Good morning, Miss Lyn!

Pascual: Good morning, JC! At siyempre, ka-hangout din natin ang mga Kapusong You-scooper na sina Dave Tan from Pasig City. Kaway naman diyan, Dave! Dave?

Dave Tan: Good morning!

Pascual: Yan. Okay. Good morning. Marco Suranos ng Mandaluyong kasama rin natin siya... Ah si Marco medyo nawawala pa. Hinahanap pa niya tayo! (laughs) Si Jeffrey

Belen ng Las Pinas. Good morning! Hi, Jeffrey? Can you hear me? Isang kaway naman jan. Yes there you go!

Jeffrey Belen: Good morning!

Pascual: Yes, good morning. At si Emily Tanlapo na mula pa all the way sa Singapore. Good morning, Emily!

Emily Tanlapo: Good morning.

Pascual: All right, good morning sa inyong lahat. First question ko po kay director Jimenez, direk, director. So brownout, glitches po sa PCOS machine, mga pangalan ng botante na wala sa voters' list, ilan lang po 'yan sa mga problemang posibleng kaharapin ng mga voters natin ngayong Eleksyon 2013. Kaya Mr. Jimenez, base sa inyong monitoring ngayon, handa na ba ang COMELEC para sa mga problemang ganito?

Dir. Jimenez: Well um, since 7 o'clock, well, since 4 o'clock this morning, nakikita na natin ah, yung ibang challenges na 'yan ano, partikular halimbawa sa ibang lugar ng Pilipinas medyo na-delay yung start-up ng ating eleksyon, so na-handle naman namen no, kaya ah, sa tingin ko, I guess the answer to that is yes, we are ready, no? Because as these challenges have been (popping) up, we've been able to respond to them properly.

Pascual: Pero sir ah, I was monitoring yung news natin kanina it said kanina na sir, the number of PCOS machines na hindi pa nga po na-deliver sa Zamboanga, ano po yung mga pinag-handaan natin para sa mga ganitong problema.

Dir. Jimenez: Ah, um (stutters). For the PCOS machines that have not yet arrived, actually, ano lang 'yan eh, ano, usapin ng oras. They will arrive there. Ang mga contingency measures naten ay for those instances na halimbawa, may PCOS, pero hindi gumana yung PCOS...

Pascual: Yes.

Dir. Jimenez: ...ah yung isa, another problem, mabagal yung start-up nung PCOS, no, mabagal mag-initialize, but then again, that was handled then eventually. So although we've been seeing these small things, ah, for the most part, yung elections naten they've been going smoothly since 7 o'clock. Marami rin pong mga, I just want to point out, marami rin ang nagrereport ng magandang experience. It's just that, lumilitaw ngayon yung mga exceptional, yung mga nagkakaproblema but given the proper context napakarami po ang nagrereport na very, ah, easy ang kanilang voting experience. So ah, we're trying to balance all of that.

Pascual: Ah. We're here trying to balance pero Sir kanina po sa Pampanga may narinig ako sa report kanina ni Lia Manalac na after ten ah sampung (said something) napasok na sa mga balota yung pang eleventh ay hindi na po pumapasok ni rereject na po siya ng PCOS machine.

Dir. Jimenez: Yes.

Pascual: So things like that happen in different places. What are the first things na kumbaga nahanda niyo para matugunan ang problemang ganun?

Dir. Jimenez: Well in, in a case like that kung saan ah biglang in the middle of the day ah nagka problema yung PCOS again the most obvious solution will be replacement papalitan natin yung PCOS.

Pascual: Okay.

Dir. Jimenez: So pag napalitan na natin yung PCOS, may susundin tayong protocol diyen. Halimbawa ah mag pi-print muna sila ng ah ng status report ah and then they'll put it in the minutes and they'll replace with full notice to all of the parties. So ito yung mga procedure na ginagawa natin to ah handle issues like this happen in (said something).

Pascual: Okay you mention kanina Sir when I ask you about ah, PCOS machines that have not yet arrived, you said that it will arrive. Ngayon depending on the time that it arrives diba ang ang botohan po natin ay from 7am to 7pm well depending on the time the PCOS machine arrives ah, kumbaga mapapahaba po ba ang oras, ma eextend ba ang oras ng botohan sa mga lugar na yun?

Dir. Jimenez: Nangyari na po yan na kung saan nagkaroon tayo ng delay at ah dinagdagan natin yung oras sa dulo. Noh, make sure na that whatever we lost at front we will make up for at the back ends so, kung nagsimula tayo ng halimbawa ng alas otso imbis na alas siyete then magtatapos din tayo ng alas otso.

Pascual: Ah, Okay so basically it follows sir.

Dir. Jimenez: Yes.

Pascual: Ngayon a few days ago sir nagkaroon po director tayo ng brownout noh even in Metro Manila and a lot of people fearing na, what if it happens today in Eleksyon 2013 now ah nagkaroon po ba kayo ng assurance mula sa Meralco o di kaya sa NAPOCOR na hindi ito mangyayari sa araw na ito. And when it does happen ano po ang mga pag-hahanda ang ginawa na ng COMELEC para dito.

Dir. Jimenez: Ah well, we received assurances and in fact ano ahm, I don't know if you notice it but one of the headlines was was ah someone reporting that power consumption was down by 50%.

Pascual: Okay.

Dir. Jimenez: Noh ah isa yan sa mga ah assurances sa atin ng mga business that they will scale down their use of electricity and it has happened ah as guaranteed to as by among other people noh Secretary Petilla of the Department of Energy. So am yung yung mga ibat-ibang element nag sasama sama namin eh para mag tulong tulong. Apart from that syempre meron kami nung aming mga measures ano, meron kaming baterya, meron kaming ah ah gen sets, and so that's that already.

Pascual: Okay, maraming salamat Director James Jimenez. Babalikan kita after a few nites, few minutes. Samantala mga kapuso puntahan naman po natin ang YouScooper nating si Dave Tan mula sa Pasig City. Good Morning Dave!

Dave Tan: Hi, Good Morning Ms. Lyn!

Pascual: Alright, I love your audio. Ah Dave nakaboto ka na ba first of all?

Dave: Ah bale mamanya po didiretso ko don since poll watcher din po ako mamaya.

Pascual: Yes poll watcher ka. So ano ang inaasahan mo ngayong araw na mangyari?

Dave: Well,

Pascual: Being a poll watcher

Dave: Well with recent feedbacks po ah swift naman po yung nagiging botohan dun po sa precinct namin dito.

Pascual: Aha

Dave: So ah unlike ah last year, ay I mean nung May 2010

Pascual: May 2010 yes.

Dave: Ah

Pascual: So mas maganda

Dave: It's better now.

Pascual: Yes it's better now. Do you have a question for Director Jimenez, Dave?

Dave: Ah, yes meron po.

Pascual: Okay go ahead.

Dave: Good morning Sir Jimenez.

Dir. Jimenez: Morning Dave.

Dave: Ah tanong ko lang po with regards po sa assistance to senior citizen in the line. Kasi po nung May 2010, example may mga voters po tayong senior citizens na kami pa pong poll watchers yung tinatawag na i-assist po sila. Eh uhm, we're adviced rin po kasi na bawal po kami sa loob nung polling precinct. So, though inadvice ko rin po yun sa BEIs, though kami po talaga yung pinaassist din po dun. So what assistance can we further give to our senior citizen voters?

Pascual: Let me add to that nga pala Director Jimenez kasi kanina I was monitoring the GMA news noh. May ah, mga matatanda po kumbaga wala silang special lane. Wala po ba tayong binigyan ng special lane for senior citizens and those persons with disabilities kasi po there was one PWD na sabi niya kanina, nagrereklamo siya. Sabi niya, "papano

ako aakyat sa third floor?” sa third floor dapat ako bumoto pero hindi ako maakyat. I cannot, I cannot go up” because nga he’s not able. He’s not physically able. So yung mga ganyang problema sir paano natin pinaghahandaan yan? Ah is there a way to make it easier for people like that?

Dir. Jimenez: Well, two things. First, ah yung sinasabing wala silang express lane. Literally, that is true noh dahil hindi tayo gumagawa ng dalawang linya. Ang ginagawa natin kapag merong PWD or elderly or buntis na babae sa linya pinauuna natin sila. We let them jump on the lane noh so that makes them in the express lane. Okay.

Pascual: Okay. So ‘yung mga BEI po ang magsasabi na kayo po dito sa harap o there’s someone assisting them?

Dir. Jimenez: Right. Pangalawa, ah we did try to put precincts down at the ground floor but in some precinct meron ka lang may isang PWD. So mahirap naman ibaba yung buong presinto because one PWD needs it noh. So what we do, we offer assistance to bring the PWD up. They may not ahhh I feel that some of them might be uncomfortable with that pero eto po ang pinaka lohikal sa amin. Karamihan naman ng botante kaya namang umakyat. Dahil in cases where isa lang o dalawa ang ang nakarecord na PWD. So, ‘yun po ‘yung ating ah measures dito. Meron tayong express lane but not literally two lines.

Pascual: Yes.

Dir. Jimenez: Its just one line and then you just give preferential treatment. Pangalawa naman, in two places kung saan talagang napakaraming PWD binaba po talaga namin ‘yung presinto. Its only in those places kung saan isa lang o dalawang PWD lang ang boboto na it remain on the higher floor noh. But even then, we help them go up.

Pascual: Siguro tayo na ring mga botante bilang mga Pilipino, ahh tayo na rin mismo ah kumbaga its up on our, on our by ourselves na tulungan sila.

Dir. Jimenez: Right. That’s what we’re gonna say. Kung nasa pila ka ‘tas nakita mo sa likod mo ay elderly o di kaya’y PWD

Pascual: Pauunahin mo na sila

Dir. Jimenez: Paunahin mo na. ‘Yun na lang ang gawin natin. Kung sino

Pascual: Ah kung...

Dir. Jimenez: Go ahead please.

Pascual: Kumbaga, kumbaga director common sense na lang po ‘diba?

Dir. Jimenez: Common decency siguro. Haha.

Pascual: Common decency.

Dir. Jimenez: Opo.

Pascual: ‘Yan ang hinahanap natin ngayong election 2013. Please paunahin ang nakatatanda o kaya ang mga persons with disabilities.

Dir. Jimenez: ‘Yung tanong po ni ano. Uh, uhm I’m sorry I forgot your name man.

Pascual: Dave.

Dir. Jimenez: Dave, Dave. Uhm, tama ka that assistors should be that the voters brings with them. Kamag-anak, kasama sa bahay. Pero kasi ‘yung pangatlo pwedeng BEI. Miyembro ng BEI. Siguro ang nangyayari ah, by the way you describe it baka ang nangyari, I felt na marami siyang ginagawa, parang essentially, “uy ikaw na lang muna in place of me noh.”

Dave: Yes.

Dir. Jimenez: While that makes sense somehow, that’s still not strictly by the rules noh. So mas maganda kung mag-insist kayo na ‘wag kayong tutulong. Bakit? Hindi sa ayaw ninyong tulongan ‘yung botante kundi gusto niyong iwasan ‘yung appearance na pinakikialamanan niyo ‘yung boto. Because you’re watchers unless you’re watchers say from NAMFREL or PCCRV. If you’re a watcher, then you’re necessarily partisan noh. So mahirap ‘yun, delikado. If you’re from NAMFREL o PPCRV I’m sure na magvovolunteer ka naman na to help kung hindi talaga kaya ng BEI.

Pascual: Okay, oh so like you said Director Jimenez kung poll watcher, its better na ‘wag?

Dir. Jimenez: Oo huwag.

Pascual: ‘Wag pakialamanan?

Dir. Jimenez: Oo. Kung political poll watcher ka ha. (said something)

Pascual: So basically ‘yung mga voters na lang po ‘yung like you said, common decency at syempre ‘yung mga kamag-anak mismo, yung mga BEI ang tutulong sa mga PWD at sa mga nakatatanda.

Dir. Jimenez: Tama po ‘yan.

Pascual: Alright. Director meron po tayong mga katanungan na pumasok mula po sa twitter. Ang mga tanong po natin ang una noh, “ano po ang pwedeng gawin kung hindi ako pinaboto ng kumpanya ko kasi bawal daw umabsent. Paano kapag pina-sign pa ng hr memo.” Sir, it’s that legal?”

Dir. Jimenez: Alam mo it is hard to say because it is a private company eh. So, hindi ko alam kung kung pwede ba talaga nilang gawin yun. I came from this problem few years ago and then finorward ko na ‘to sa legal namin and I am trying to ask their opinion. I cannot say off the top of my head na illegal ‘yon because ultimately, no work, no pay ‘diba? (Said something) I don’t know kung gaano siya ka-legal vis-à-vis the labor code

so, ahm for me, it is really wrong. Pakiramdam ko mali ‘yon at hindi dapat ginagawa, hindi dapat ginigipit ang mga empleyado ng ganun.

Pascual: Oo tama. Pinipigilan mo ang tao na i-exercise ang their right to vote eh.

Dir. Jimenez: Exactly, exactly. And that’s unfair.

Pascual: Again, that falls again to common decency.

Dir. Jimenez: Hahaha.

Pascual: But anyway sir, this is another Twitter question na pumasok sa’tin noh. Ah yung sabi nila eh, “Chiz Escudero’s dad is still a registered voter what is comelec doing regarding delisting deceased and this be used for cheating.” Ano po ba ang patakaran natin pagdating sa kunyari namatay na ang isang tao pero botante siya. Automatic ba kailangan kamag-anak ang pumunta na sa comelec para sabihin na tanggalin sa listahan. Papaano kung ayaw nilang tanggalin?

Dir. Jimenez: Okay. Ang proseso po natin dun kapag ah may namayapa na noh, iniintay natin yung kanilang death certificate from the civil registry. Uhm, apart from that kung hindi dinadala ng civil registry usually lumalapit yung kamag-anak sa COMELEC. Paki delist naman yung aking kamag-anak pero hindi po COMELEC ang pupunta sa inyo at sasabihing, “uy namatayan kayo” kasi in general hindi natin alam. Kakaiba siguro nung process ng father ni Senator Escudero because he’s just a public (said something) or kung nakausap na po nila yung civil registry i-forward na po sa amin agad-agad.

Pascual: Alright. Maraming salamat Dir. Jimenez. Muli balik tayo mula kay JC Maningat ng Batangas. Good morning again JC. JC, kumusta naman ang pagboto, nakaboto ka na ba to begin with? (JC shows index finger with ink) Ah yes, indelible ink nakikita ko yan. So JC do you have a question for Dir. Jimenez? (JC is inaudible) I’m sorry JC I cannot hear, babalikan kita in a while. Punta muna tayo kay Jeffrey Belen. Mula sa Las Pinas, Jeffrey, good morning ulit sa ‘yo. Hi Jeff! Jeffrey? Good morning.

Jeffrey: Hi.

Pascual: Jeffrey, may katanungan ka ba para kay Dir. Jimenez?

Jeffrey: Yes, meron po. Ah, bilang isang bagong botante po, if in case po na hindi ko makita sa listahan yung aking pangalan, saan po o kanina ako kailangang lumapet?

Dir. Jimenez: Ah, teka, nakaboto ka na ba?

Jeffrey: Ah, actually hindi pa po, so yun lang po yung tanong ko.

Dir. Jimenez: What are you still doing here, man?! (Claps, chuckles)

Pascual: (Laughs) He’s hanging out with [us] sa E13 Hangout!

Dir. Jimenez: O hinde hinde. Okay lang naman ‘yon. Ahm, kung hindi mo mahanap yung pangalan mo dun sa listahan agad, please kumausap ka don sa PPCRV.

Jeffrey: Opo.

Dir. Jimenez: Merong desk yung PPCRV sa bawat voting center at tutulungan ka nila.

Jeffrey: Ah okay po.

Pascual: So PPCRV ang kailangan mong lapitan.

Jeffrey: Meron po.

Pascual: Go ahead.

Jeffrey: May isa pa po akong tanong, ah follow-up lang. Kasi po yung parents ko then yung lola ko, dati nakaregister sila sa Valenzuela ngayon then nalaman nila na nilipat sila ng eskuwelahan. Possibly po ba na pwedeng ilipat sila ulet sa eskuwelahan na pinabobotohan nila? Kasi po nilipat sila eh.

Dir. Jimenez: Ah, possible naman ‘yon, kase, nagrerecluster tayo ng mga presinto. So, it’s still possible. Pero, alam ko dapat hindi sila malipat sa labas ng barangay niyo, no. Ibig sabihin, kung dating ditong barangay ka bumuboto, pwede kang ilipat sa ibang eskuwelahan within the same barangay, pero hindi ka pwedeng ilipat ng eskuwelahan sa ibang barangay.

Pascual: Like you said Dir. Jimenez nagrerecluster...

Jeffrey: Maraming salamat po.

Pascual: Thank you Jeffrey. Nagrerecluster po sa... we have more than 50 million... voters?

Dir. Jimenez: 52 million po. More than 52.

Pascual: More than 52 million voters. That’s the, that’s the highest, kumbaga we’ve never had this much registered voters, right sir?

Dir. Jimenez: Yes, right. It grows every year kasi.

Pascual: It grows every year. Ibig sabihin dumadami talaga ang populasyon naten dito sa Pilipinas (laughs).

Dir. Jimenez: Tama.

Pascual: Okay tama. (said something) Punta naman po tayo sa Singapore, we have a YouScooper from Singapore, her name is Emily Tanlapo. Good morning, Emily! Nakaboto ka na ba?

Emily: Yes, I have voted.

Pascual: A proud voter, thank you very much for that. Ah, Emily, kumusta naman ang pagboto mo sa Singapore, maayos ba ang naging proseso jan?

Emily: Yeah. Actually I would like to recognize the efforts done by COMELEC because, uhm, it was a very efficient voting process, and, there were lots of volunteers, and maraming guides, and it was really very smooth. It took me around, what, 10 minutes max.

Pascual: Wala ka namang nakitang ano pinagbabawal sa eleksyon (woes) na nangyari diyan sa Singapore, it was really, kumbaga eh, as close to perfect as possible?

Emily: Yeah, I could say that.

Pascual: Okay, great! So, Emily, meron ka bang katanungan para kay Direktor Jimenez?

Emily: Yeah. I just have, you know. The question is like, uhm, I think, there is still a low turnout of uhm registered overseas uhm voters. Uhm, I would like to know what were the uhm you know the steps that the government took so that you know yung, yung others would be more ah informed about the election.

Dir. Jimenez: Yeah. Uhm, its not that not so much they're not informed. In a lot of cases, the low turnout is really because its very difficult to get to the post, no? Posts like Singapore and Hong Kong, they're they're very easy to get to because you're all on the same island or small territory. But when you're talking about a place such as the Middle East for instance where people are in (dorms) out in the desert, kinda difficult to get to the post, you know, in order to register first, and second, to vote. So dalawang beses kang maha-hassle. In some places naman it's like, the post is here and you're here at the other end of the continent so it becomes more difficult. So a lot of times the issue is not so much that they don't know, it's more that is very difficult for them to actually go and vote.

The second problem is yung tinatawag nating affidavit of intent to return. Marami po tayong immigrants na gusto sanang bumoto pero hindi sila makapagparehistro dahil inobligang natin sila na pumirma ng isang kasulatan na nagsasabing after three years, babalik ako sa Pilipinas. So marami sa kanila na nangangamba na baka majeopardize ang kanilang immigrant status.

And third, and this is ah, a situation that is common in Europe, sometimes, Filipinas marry foreigners and they do not they are not able to exercise their right to vote after that, because again, it might jeopardize their immigrant status. So yun po yung mga nagiging issues no. Uhm, so as far as those are concerned, sinusubukan po nating ayusin yan.

Una, by removing the affidavit of intent to return as a requirement. Pangalawa, by working to get Internet voting approved, authorized no for overseas absentee voting, uhm, and we think that will really solve a lot of problems. In some places we're offering also, we looking at the possibility of offering more legal, legally-themed information materials. Kase kung minsan, yung akala nilang bawal sa legal, sa legal system ng host country, ay hindi naman pala, or meron palang loophole. So we're trying to provide more of that.

Now, this is not to say na wala tayong kakulangan sa information. Napakarami pong Filipino all over the world and admittedly sometimes, the information doesn't get to them as quickly as it should. So ang ginagawa naten, nagpapartner tayo with ah uhm ano, major media networks, kasi, dun tayo nakakahatak ng maraming tao no. Kapag merong media event, ah, merong potential to draw in more people, who would hear your message ordinary that they wouldn't, minsan for instance on a Sunday, or or whatever the rest day is in a particular country. Instead of listening to the COMELEC or going to the consulate, sometimes, they just wanna hang out. If you put in a media event there baka dun sila pumunta, at habang nandun sila, saka natin sila bigyan ng information. We're trying...

Pascual: Oo, talagang...

Dir. Jimenez: We're trying to (said something) more creative to do it po.

Pascual: So information dissemination, is still ah, is still very important not just abroad but also here no. Uhm, Director Jimenez, let's go back to JC Maningat from ah, he's a blogger from Batangas. JC you're back, can I hear you?

JC: Yes I can hear you Miss Lyn.

Pascual: Hi! Okay JC, may katanungan ka para kay Director Jimenez?

JC: Ah bago po ako magtanong I'd like to raise my concern uhm regarding nga po yung BPO employees. Kasi, ah, we have 600,000 call center agents po at uhm malaking concern po ito kung hindi sila makakaboto. Binabanggit po kanina, ito po ay saklaw ng private domain pero wala po ba talagang ah magagawa yung COMELEC ano kase natatandaan natin yung Habagat nagkaroon naman ng issuance ng ano ang ating executive, at ah nagkaroon ng ah (audio muffled) absence ng ilang mga BPO employee. Ngayon po bang ah espesyal na araw ng ating demokrasya wala po bang gagawin yung COMELEC para makaboto ang ating mga BPO employees?

Dir. Jimenez: Sabi mo nga JC di ba, executive? Ah and and they sent out an order to executive agency uhm again, the question of kung pwede tayong manghimasok doon sa mga terms ng mga employment contract nila. Bagaman I share your your ano your belief na dapat bawal yon siyempre ayaw naman nating ah, tumapak sa mga kontrata or whatever legal relationships they might have. Kaya nga sinangguni namin yan sa law department namin to find an answer to that. Unfortunately, this issue cropped up rather late so hindi naman yan naanticipate na some companies would actually threaten ah their employees that way, its something that ah that we did not expect. Its something that shocks us. Pero, as to what we can do legally, ah, at this point, hindi ko talaga alam.

Pascual: Yeah maraming salamat.

JC: Ah, follow-up question po.

Pascual: Okay.

JC: May mga narereceive po kaming reports. Ah, may mga nangyayari pong bentahan ng COMELEC IDs sa San Juan, Quezon City at iba pang parts ng NCR. Ito po ba ay legal? Kase yung mga reports po na nareceive namen [yung nagpapadala ng ID's na] twenty pesos, ten pesos at thirty pesos. So, ito po ba ay may pahintulot ng COMELEC?

Dir. Jimenez: Ang pagkaka-alam ko po diyan yung mga poll IDs pinapacertify sa mga COMELEC officials. So dinadala yan ng mga politiko, ng mga political parties at pinapacertify sa COMELEC. Uhm, kung ang tinutukoy mo ba, binibenta ba nila sa kahit sinong humingi ng poll watcher ID is that what you are saying?

JC: (Sa kahit sino po)

Dir. Jimenez: Ah talaga. We have to see that kase ang understanding namin diyan is that kapag ang ano, ang ah, poll, yung political party or yung candidate ah nag-iissue sila ng poll watcher ID nila, pinapacertify nila yan sa COMELEC sometimes. And ah I thought that was what you were referring to. Uhm, there was no indication that is being sold openly to the public and certainly, if that's so, I would love to see a copy of that no. So why don't we go buy some and use that as evidence. Kasi hindi ko pa ho naririnig na nagawa 'yan.

Pascual: Maraming salamat sa 'yo Direktor Jimenez. I wish I could have spent more time with you, I wish I could ask so many more questions unfortunately we're out of time. So maraming salamat Direktor Jimenez, thank you so much.

Dir. Jimenez: Salamat po.

Pascual: Thank you for hanging out with us here at E13. And thank you, ah maraming salamat rin kay JC Maningat, ang blogger natin mula sa Batangas.

JC: Salamat din po.

Pascual: Thank you. At thank you rink ay Dave Tan mula sa Pasig.

Dave: Okay.

Pascual: Thank you ah, Jeffrey Belen, mula sa Las Pinas.

Jeffrey: Thank you.

Pascual: At thank you rink ay Emily Tanlapo.

Emily: Thank you.

Pascual: Sa mga botante po naten ngayong araw nako ingatan po ang inyong boto. (Pumasok) po kayo sa mga voting precincts dala ang inyong listahan para mapabilis mo ang proseso at siyempre... Just make sure that you vote for the people you think is right for you and for the country. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat at maraming salamat sa lahat ng ating mga bisita. Tandaan mga Kapuso, dapat tama! Kaya pag nakakita kayo ng mga maling-maling gawain ngayong election day gaya ng pangangampanya at pamimili ng boto, bawal po ang mangampanya sa election day ah. Isumbong niyo po agad 'yan sa

amin. Ipadala po ang mga litrato o mga video sa www.youscoop.tv o i-tweet ang @youscoop. ‘Yan. Sana nakatulong po and I’m sure nakatulong ang mga payo ni COMELEC Spokesperson Dir. James Jimenez para magbigay ng impormasyon at maitama ang mga maling-maling gawain ngayong eleksyon. Unang salang pa lang po yan ng E13 hangout. Mamayang alas tres ng hapon mga Kapuso naman natin sa abroad ang ating makakasama sa hangout. Aalamin natin ang kanilang mga karanasan sa overseas absentee voting sa Italy, sa Hong Kong at sa San Francisco. Magkita-kita tayo muli mamayang alas-tres ng hapon dito sa E13 Hangout, ang tambayan mo ngayong Eleksyon 2013. See you later.

APPENDIX B – Sampled News Articles

1 dead in Sulu province poll violence; armed clashes noted in some towns

One was killed and four others were wounded when armed men attacked Monday morning a group of supporters of a mayoral candidate in Panglima Estino town in Sulu, even as military sources noted armed confrontations had also taken place in other towns in the province.

Citing military sources, GMA New's reporter Chino Gaston said armed men ambushed a group of supporters of mayoralty bet Munib Estino.

The four who were wounded were rushed to Sulu Integrated Provincial Hospital, the report said, adding military personnel rushed to the area to de-escalate the tension there.

Meanwhile, tension also gripped Tongkil town residents when a firefight erupted between the group of mayoral candidate Hadji Abdullajid Alih and Sulu gubernatorial candidate and incumbent Mayor Wahid Sahidullah, Gaston said.

Military personnel were deployed in the area to contain the situation, he added.

In Omar town, some PCOS machines were damaged and ballots were splashed with water in an attack on a polling precinct there, Gaston said.

Gaston, however, said elections in Jolo town was peaceful, but a few children were seen handing out campaign materials and candies bearing senatorial candidate Tingting Cojuanco's name.

Despite armed confrontations in some towns, "elections continue in Sulu province," Gaston quoted local Comelec officials as saying.

Sulu province has been included on the list of "areas of concern" being monitored by Comelec.

Earlier, the Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan Jr confirmed that police personnel on poll duties in Tongkil have been replaced by troops from the Philippine Marines to protect the cops from partisan political influence. —

LBG, GMA News

1 comment

Jana. Correction to below statement: In Omar town, some PCOS machines were damaged and ballots were splashed with water in an attack on a polling precinct there, Gaston said. This incident transpired in Panglima Estino municipality (particularly in barangay Tiptipon) and not in Omar, there was no incident of PCOS machines or ballots that were destroyed in Omar.

10 Team PNoy, 2 UNA bets take first lead in partial, unofficial results

Ten senatorial candidates from administration coalition Team PNoy and two from the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) were in the top 12 based on partial and unofficial results shortly after the voting period closed on Monday night.

GMA News' partial unofficial tally as of 7:22 p.m. showed that Team PNoy's Grace Poe (4,607 votes), Loren Legarda (4,589 votes), Bam Aquino (4,548 votes), Francis Escudero (3,924 votes), Alan Peter Cayetano (3,888 votes), Sonny Angara (3,717 votes), Cynthia Villar (3,532 votes), Koko Pimentel (3,426 votes), Antonio Trillanes IV (3,266 votes), and Jun Magsaysay (3,187 votes) were among the top 12.

They were joined by UNA bets Nancy Binay (4,036 votes) and Miguel Zubiri (3,076 votes).

The figures reflected only 0.03 percent of the election returns (ERs)— **Kimberly Jane Tan/KBK, GMA News**

1 comment

2¢. So it's becoming clear – there is no Catholic block vote. Team 'Patay' did very well! Now everyone knows, the arrogant Bishops do NOT have the support of the voting Filipinos!

18 armadong lalaki na tauhan daw ng isang kandidato, nasabat ng mga pulis sa Davao del Sur

Marc Jayson Cayabyab

Nasabat sa isang checkpoint ng mga pulis sa Malita, Davao del Sur ang 18 lalaki na armado ng iba't ibang kalibre ng baril.

Sa ulat ni Tek Ocampo ng GMA-Davao sa GMA Flash Report nitong Lunes, sinabing mga tauhan ng Regional Public Safety Command ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang nakadakis sa mga lalaki.

Dinala ang mga ito sa Malita police station para ipagpatuloy ang imbestigasyon.

Sinasabing tauhan ng isang kandidatong kongresista ang mga nadakis na lalaki.

(video insert)

Ayon sa ulat, isa ang Malita sa mga bayan sa Davao del Sur na may pinakamaraming botante kaya pinag-aagawan ito ng mga kandidato.

Samantala, nagkaberya ang botohan sa Daniel R. Aguinaldo High School sa Davao City matapos pumalya ang ilang PCOS machines.

Pitong presinto sa nasabing paaralan ang naapektuhan sa pagpalya ng mga makina ng PCOS. Gayunman, natuloy pa rin ang pagboto ng mga tao pero inilagay muna sa selyadong kahon ang mga baloto. - **FRJ, GMA News**

1 comment

okpasau. hi-blood ako magbasa ng mga ganitong balita hahaha... bakit ba nagpapagamit ang mga to? at ito namang mga kandidato, kung totoong serbisyo sa bayan ang pakay, di na kailangan pwersahin o takutin ang mga tao para botohin sila kung talagang karapat dapat sila sa pwesto.. haaisssttt malinaw na pera ng bayan ang habol ng mga ganitong kandidato pag nakaupo na sa pwesto... besides u can help naman kahit di ka maging puliko eh, sabi ni Vic Sotto

4 supporters of Taguig mayoral bet mauled

In what could be seen as an extension of the violence that occurred there two weeks ago, four supporters of Taguig mayoral candidate Rica Tinga were hurt Monday after they were allegedly mauled by men identified with the local city government.

In a GMA News report by Steve Dailisan, the victim, identified as Fatima Limpasan, said she and her cousins were setting up a help desk at the Maharlika Elementary School in Upper Bicutan at around 9 a.m. when personnel from the Public Order and Safety Office (POSO) approached and attacked them.

"Dapat maglalagay kami ng table sa labas ng school para makatulong sa mga ibang botante na hindi nila alam ang presinto nila. Pero nung maglalabas na kami ng laptop, may lalapit na lalaki na kukunin ang laptop," said Limpasan.

Tinga is running against re-electionist Mayor Lani Cayetano, wife of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Apart from Limpasan, also hurt in the incident were her cousins Yadi Jarun, 20; Azman Jarun, 18; as well as a certain Lino Jarun, 40, the report said.

(video insert)

The four were brought to a nearby police precinct for their respective statements on the incident.

The report showed the victims with bruises on their faces. One of them even had a cut above his eyes. Limpasan's shirt was also torn in the back due to the scuffle.

The victims described the men who attacked them as wearing bonnets, scarfs, and sunglasses.

Dailisan said police personnel had already been deployed to the school to prevent other untoward incidents.

Two weekends ago, a violent confrontation erupted between Tinga's supporters and POSO personnel.

Tinga had already filed a complaint against Cayetano and several POSO personnel for allegedly violating Section 261 (e) of the Omnibus Election Code, or committing "threats, intimidation and terrorism, use of fraudulent device or other forms of coercion."

Twelve people were hurt in that attack, which almost put Taguig on the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) list of areas of concern for the May 13 elections.

Tinga had described their attackers as men whose faces were "covered with bonnets or shawls and carrying black backpacks." — **Mark Merueñas/KBK, GMA News**

1 comment

2¢. Animals maul. The journalist needs a dictionary.

Annabelle Rama, namimiligrong mabigo sa unang sabak sa pulitika sa Cebu

Hindi pumapabor sa kontrobersiyal na talent manager na si Annabelle Rama ang lumalabas na resulta ng bilangan sa Cebu City kung saan tumakbo siyang kongresista sa unang distrito.

Batay sa 38.46% ng partial at unofficial result ng Cebu Election Returns, nakakuha pa lamang si Annabelle ng 27,294 boto, kumpara sa nangungunang si Raul V. del Mar, na mayroong 97,849 boto.

Kilalang angkan ng pulitiko sa Cebu ang mga del Mar.

Ang nakatunggali ni Annabelle na si Raul ay naupong kongresista mula pa noong 1992 hanggang 1998, at muli noong 2001 hanggang 2010.

Habang hindi nakapuwesto sa Kongreso, ang mga anak ni Raul ang nananalong kongresista gaya ni Raoul na mula 1998 hanggang 2001, at si Rachel na 2010 hanggang 2013.

Kasunod ng lumalabas na paunang resulta ng bilangan, inihayag ng anak ni Annabelle na si Raymond Gutierrez, na ang pagtakbo ng kanyang ina ay naging daan upang lalong maging malapit sila bilang pamilya (Twitter insert):

[Raymond Gutierrez @mondgutierrez](#)

This whole experience brought us closer as a family. Everything has a purpose.

[10:02 PM - 13 May 2013](#)

Nitong Lunes ng umaga, bumoto si Annabelle kasama ang kanyang buong pamilya.

Imelda Papin, tagilid din sa Bulacan

Sa Bulacan, naghahabol din ng malaking boto sa pagka-kongresista ang singer na si Imelda Papin na tumakbong kongresista sa San Jose Del Monte.

Batay sa partial unofficial tally na kumakatawan sa 67.23% of Election Returns sa SJDM City, nakakuha ang nangungunang si Arthur Robes ng 53,204 boto, kontra sa pumapangalawang si Imelda na 26,789 boto. -- **Mac Macapendeg/FRJ, GMA News**

13 comments

wakeupbayan. This is absolutely great news for everyone. Can you imagine putting another tiger in your tank ang stilo ni Rama. She barks like a mad dog every time she opens her mouth, maybe even when asleep. Good news !!!!

estaquio. sana mangyari yan sa lahat ng mga artistang tumatakbo na wala namang alam sa pamumuno.

g par. eto ang sayo.....ha.....ha.....ha.....ha.....pa.....Anong say mo Nadia Montenegro?.....Congrats sa mag taga Cebu pinatunayan nyo na matatalino kayo.....kung mananalo yang palengkerang yan baka maging palengke ang Congreso... Bantayan mo na lang si Eddie baka masalisihan ka ni Pilita. Sayo Anabelle dapat pinagsayaw mo si Ruffa ng naka 2 piece bka nadagdagan ng 100 boto ung mga boboto sayo. Walang maniniwala sa pamilya mo. kung nag barangay chairman ka o kaya bgy. kagawad sure win ka.

Vahl Francisca Capistrano. nag pa VIP man hindi pumila, nag inarte pa si Ruffa kasi mainit,mabaho magulo..PLASTIK NA PAMILYA NAKAKA DIRI KAYO.

Vahl Francisca Capistrano. DYLA CEBU REPORTS: Anabelle Rama did not fall in line when she voted at the Zapatera Elem School clustered precinct 271 at 9:45 am. She was accompanied by husband Eddie and Richard. Ruffa, Raymond and Elvis just waited inside their van. They proceed to Kamputhaw, the voting place for Ruffa, Elvis and richard. Eddie will vote in Busay.

Matt Cruz. "Dili siya angay sa position" (Cebuano She is unfit).She is a big disgrace to Cebuanos.And I just discovered a year ago how much Ruffa is like her mom.Bitches.

Anne Friedrich. it's their life,mayruon naman sigurong plan ang Panginoon para sa kanila, please na lang don't make bad comments...bakit kaya ang mga taga showbiz ang hilig pumasok sa politika..

Priscilla Limqueco. Hehehe.

echoserangfroggy. Lakas ng loob mo anabelle pahiya ka noh? Buti nga sau Tambak na tambak ka scores di komot mga artista anak mo mauuto mo mga tga cebu..takaw pera taklesang walang breeding at wala kang "K" sa industriya man o pulitika..nanahimik pa sya sa media sa sobrang pagiingat nya tsk tskk...most people hate u

GustoKoHappyKa. Ay salamat!!!

Paul Lara. yeah...you 2 have all the right to run for public office, BUT, unfortunately, both of you lack the qualification to do so! filipino voters are smarter now, di nyo na cla mauuto...

Pidyong. Buti nga sa iyo Anabelle it shows di ka karapat dapat na maging kongresista, wala kang kalidad na mahalal sa kongreso hahaha maganda yan at nabawasan ang pinagyayabang mong yaman kahit ako hinding hindi kita iboboto

ernievictory. buti nga annabelle and imelda papin . talunan kayo. magtinda na lang kayo ng taho !

Armless voter gets indelible ink on toenail



With no hands, 49-year-old Nelson Nuñez casts his vote in Aparri, Cagayan. **Photo by [John Consulta](#)**

(Updated 3:30 p.m.) Voter Nelson Nuñez was one of millions who cast their ballots on May 13, but just one of a handful who got indelible ink not on a fingernail but on a toenail.

Nuñez lost both his arms in a workplace accident and was among the thousands of disabled voters who trooped to polling centers on Monday, many of them beneficiaries of a Comelec campaign to register disabled citizens to vote.

He has learned to write with what was left of his upper arms, and that's how he filled out his ballot.

It was Nuñez's first time to vote in an automated election, and his excitement was palpable, GMA News' John Consulta reported.

Upon arriving at the school in Aparri, Cagayan, the 49-year-old Nuñez immediately looked for his assigned precinct. Like other voters, Nuñez prepared a list so he could quickly complete the voting process. After Nuñez submitted his ballot, indelible ink was placed on his right big toenail.

Proud to have fulfilled his civic duty, Nuñez said he wanted to be an example for other PWDs and not let his condition stop him from exercising his right to vote.

Disabled voters turn out

Meanwhile in Makati, 30-year-old Niño Aguirre headed to Pembo Elementary School and overcame his own challenges to cast his vote. Aguirre reached his precinct on board a skateboard, his main form of transport after losing both his legs, GMA News' Isay Reyes reported.



Using a plastic stool as a makeshift leg, 70-year-old Magdalena Datono cast her vote at the Pres. Corazon Aquino Elementary School in Quezon City.

In Cainta, Rizal, PWD residents of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan were assisted by election officers as they cast their votes at the Marick Elementary School.

In Quezon City, Magdalena Datono cast her vote, despite only having one leg. The 70-year-old fell in line using a plastic stool to help her walk, GMA News' Joseph Morong reported on Monday afternoon.

"Para makinabang sila sa akin, ako makinabang din sa kanila," a smiling Datono said when asked why she continues to vote.

Some PWD volunteers were also deployed to polling centers, according to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

Last year, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued Resolution No. 9485 to make voting easier for PWDs. As of June 2012, Comelec said there were at least 24,573 PWDs who registered and updated their records.

That would only be six percent of the estimated 400,000 Filipino PWDs are eligible to vote, according to Fully Abled Nation, a Disability-Inclusive Elections initiative.

Also in 2012, Comelec set August 11 as National PWD Voter Registration Day to encourage PWDs to register for the 2013 elections. – **Carmela G. Lapeña/HS, GMA News**

6 comments

brent tzu. inspiring ...

Mister Mischievous. buti pa xia, exercised his right to vote, kapitbahay ko, completo kaya lang ayaw bumoto kasi wala raw siyang natanggap na pera!

(Reply to Mister Mischievous) **android_ultima.** Silly person, your neighbor

(Reply to Mister Mischievous) **cyjeren.** Hahahahahaaaa!!! You made my day..

(Reply to cyjeren) **Mister Mischievous.** paano? Hehheh

(Reply to Mister Mischievous) **cyjeren.** Nakakatawa yung comment mo, totoo naman!

Cayetanos take early lead in Taguig

(Updated May 14 - 4:00 a.m.) The Cayetanos have a double early lead in the official count of election results in Taguig City as Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's wife and brother were ahead of their respective rivals.

The city board of canvassers suspended the day's canvassing past 2 a.m. of Tuesday, incumbent Mayor Maria Laarni "Lani" Cayetano was leading with 68,216 votes, while her rival Ma. Rebecca Carissa "Rica" Tinga trailed with 42,495 votes AT 53.05 percent of election returns veing canvassed.

Meanwhile, Senator Cayetano's brother, the filmmaker Lino Cayetano, was also ahead of Henry Dueñas Jr. in the congressional race for the city's Second District.

Canvassing will resume at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The city board of canvassers opened its canvassing system a litte past 7 p.m. of Monday but poll results from the precincts that were to be transmitted did not start arriving until after half an hour later.

Transmission of election returns came to a halt at around 11 p.m. with the transmission percentage getting stuck at 44 percent, due to connection problems. Around this time, several brown envelopes containing untransmitted election returns arrived and were manually transmitted by the canvassers into the database.

Results of the canvassing were projected to a tarpaulin inside the canvassing area so that supporters and representatives of the respective candidates can witness the updates.

Another tarpaulin showing the results was placed just outside the building for the public to see.

Around midnight, red vehicles marked with "Taguig City" and carrying the precinct optical scan machines arrived at the city hall, where the machines would be kept.

A number of policemen guarded the entrance to the canvassing area.

Two weekends ago, a violent confrontation erupted between Tinga's supporters and personnel from the local government's Public Order and Safety Office (POSO).

Tinga had already filed a complaint against Cayetano and several POSO personnel for allegedly violating Section 261 (e) of the Omnibus Election Code, or committing “threats, intimidation and terrorism, use of fraudulent device or other forms of coercion.”

Twelve people were hurt in that attack, which almost put Taguig on the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) list of areas of concern for the May 13 elections. — **KBK/ELR, GMA News**

15 comments

Jack Reyes. Traydor yan si Alan Peter Cayetano!!! tignan mo ginawa nila sa Taguig nun eleksyon para manalo lang ang Asawa nya. nambugbog mga tao nya sa tao ni Tinga

joon_23. naku po Political dynasty na

fefelez. Bakit kaya nag early lead si cayetano? diba sila ung nanggulo nun mayo 13 sa taguig...

ipoz909090. Grabe yan si Cayetano sa taguig... kurakot!!!

Jamman243. pandaraya lang yang ginawa ni cayetano. dapat si sya manalo

Sawa na sa Tinga. Come to Think of these Guys!

I used to be a Tinga supporter eversince I first voted last 2004. Until i realized we need CHANGES.

Tingas wanted Taguig to be a city, Cayetanos opposed. cityhood may mean higher income... More money to be corrupted.

When Lani became mayor last 2010, she's saying she's focussing on education because many oppurtunities awaits for us Taguigenos. They are preparing our younger generations to be the best. Now that the FTI has been privatized, we should expect that it will be the next big thing after the Fort. Tinga wants the power for them to manipulate again the money that we hardly earned.

one thing i can say... i was born here in Taguig, living for 28 years here and hopefully will be here when i get much older. I love Taguig. We deserved a Best Leader.

disqus_Cadt3jFKT7. mayor lani na at hindi na matitinga!

disqus_Cadt3jFKT7. daming alibi ng natalo! wala na ba talaga kayo natitira kahit konteng respeto para sa sarili ninyo at kagandahang asal na ipapamana ninyo sa mga anak ninyo?

Guest. Mar Roxas nasa likod ng vote buying! Ikaw na!

Guest. Tapos na ang pangangampanya ng team pnoy pero bakit si Mar Roxas hindi pa rin nagtatrabaho sa DILG?

Guest. Sana maging sincere public servants ang mga bagong senador. Bawal ang traydor tulad ni Cayetano.

Guest. Nanalo si Alan Cayetano dahil sa vote buying nila ni Mar Roxas.

Guest. Hindi sana nanalo si Cayetano kung hindi lang siya tinulungan mandaya ni Mar Roxas

enduRUNce. Ano pa nga bang hahanapin? TLC all the way. Mas confident ako na Cayetano pa rin. I am assured that Taguig is in the best hands. Excited na ako sa progreso ng Taguig.

Anthony Fernandez. GO MAYOR AND SENATOR. Marami talaga ang nainiwala sa kakayan niyo

Comelec: 44% precincts have transmitted results

(Updated 11:23 a.m.) Around 34,725 clustered precincts have transmitted their results as of 9:15 p.m., registering 44.2 percent of total precincts nationwide, the Commission on Elections said late Monday.

Commissioner Grace Padaca said that they were "happy" with the number of the transmissions.

"But as I am speaking now baka umakyat na naman siya now baka umaakyat na naman 'yan ule. But expect that at some point baka mag-slow down kasi it's the initial search," Padaca said.

Also, she denied speculation that the Comelec was reporting the transmission status to quell public fears on a transmission discrepancy. "I've been tweeting kanina pa," Padaca explained.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting earlier reported discrepancies in their canvassing results. (<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/308178/news/nation/ppcrv-reports-discrepancy-in-early-tally>)

For his part, commissioner Luie Guia said the transmission to the Comelec server so far was "fast." — **DVM, GMA News**

2 comments

Ronald. Kaduda duda talaga kung ano ang pinagagagawa ng COMELEC. Hindi kaya wholesale na panloloko sa bayan ang nagyayari dito?

G i L L i A N. Kung ikukumpara sa 2010 election , hindi ba masyadong matagal ang resulta ngayon kesa nung 2010 ? Baket ganun . dahil ba to dun sa mga nasirang PCOS machine ?

Comelec suspends national canvassing until Tuesday

Amita Legaspi and Gian Geronimo

(Updated 8:41 p.m.) The National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), composed of chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. and the six members of the Commission on Elections, suspended its session Monday evening and will resume at 10 in the morning Tuesday.

According to a report by Jam Sisante on GMA News TV's Eleksyon 2013 coverage, the NBOC said that results are just trickling in at the moment, and that it is waiting for a substantial number of results to come in before it will start the official canvassing of votes.

The delay will affect the official release of results for the senatorial race, but will not have an impact on the declaration of winners at the local level.

Local canvassing continues, with the results to be brought to the City Board of Canvassers and then to the Provincial Board of Canvassers.

In a press briefing, Brillantes said the en banc expects the results to come in in the next few hours.

"By that time [10 a.m.], a substantial number [of results] would have been received," he said, adding that they will announce results when they reconvene Tuesday morning.

"Baka nga ho mag-ready na kami magproclaim, depende ho 'yung layo sa 12th and 13th place," Brillantes said in an interview with GMA's 24 Oras newscast later.

Suspension is 'normal procedure'

In a phone interview with GMA News Online, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said the NBOC's decision is nothing out of the ordinary.

"That's normal procedure. It's a standard procedure that if the board of canvassers have yet to receive the certificate of canvass, it will stop the proceedings," he said.

"Ang nangyayari kasi pinapakitang negative agad. It's a standard normal procedure," Macalintal said.

'A little rest'

Brillantes said they decided to resume at 10 a.m. Tuesday "to give everybody a chance to rest."

"We are working too hard, we are entitled to a little rest. Pahinga nang konti," he said.

"First, the suggestion was 10 o'clock this evening. The other suggestion is 6 o'clock tomorrow morning and the final agreement was that we will commence, we will resume only tomorrow morning to give everybody a chance to rest because today is Election Day," he said.

“When we were discussing this whether we should continue immediately after the initialization and the zeroing, we could have proceeded immediately but it was decided by the en banc that we would rather wait for a few hours,” Brillantes added.

"Each and every one of us have been working so hard that we feel we are entitled to a little rest tonight. Pahinga lang konti and we will be ready to proceed tomorrow," he continued.

PPCRV's unofficial count

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), on the other hand, will continue to accept election results and feature an unofficial tally on its site.

"Liliwanagin natin, the unofficial ones okay lang 'yun, wala namang problema e, so everybody can monitor it," Brillantes said.

"Kami, since this is the official canvass, we will have to wait, papasok pa ito sa municipal board of canvassers, it will now go up to the municipal board, to the provincial board before it goes to the national board. So medyo mas matagal nang kaunti ito kasi official ang aming results," he also said.

Convened

The NBOC officially convened past 6 p.m. Monday, ahead of the results that started coming in at 7 p.m., when voting ended.

The Comelec en banc also initialized Monday evening the consolidation and canvassing system (CCS), which receives the electronically transmitted election results from all parts of the country.

Before opening the box containing the CCS, the clerk of the commission, lawyer Josie dela Cruz, allowed the lawyers and representatives of senatorial candidates and party-list groups to see that the box containing the laptop where the CCS is installed and other necessary materials and equipment was sealed.

In initializing the system, Brillantes allowed the younger and newer commissioners—Robert Christian Lim, Al Parreno and Luie Guia—to enter the username and password.

The National Canvass Report then appeared, with the candidates having "zero" votes.

Brillantes certified that the report contained zero votes, and announced the suspension of the canvassing.

Resolution 9686

On May 6, the Comelec en banc promulgated Resolution 9686, detailing what the NBOC will do during the canvassing and consolidation of votes. The poll body also assigned different committees and working groups to help it in the task such as:

- Consolidation and Canvassing System (CCS) operator

- Supervisory Committee
- Reception, Custody and Safekeeping Group
- Secretariat
- Tabulation Group
- Control and Releasing Group
- Security Group
- Legal Group
- Mass Media Group, and
- Logistics and Maintenance Group.

The resolution states that should there be any discrepancy between the printed and electronically transmitted certification of canvass, the canvassing of the certificates of canvass (COCs) shall be deferred.

The NBOC may also determine the authenticity and due execution of the electronically transmitted COCs in accordance with existing laws and rules.

In case of discrepancy, incompleteness, erasure or alteration of the COC, the candidate, political party, coalition or political parties or party-list groups shall submit their oral observation or manifestation to the chairman of the board of canvassers at the time the concerned COC is presented in the canvass.

The complaining party should submit their verified petition in 10 legible copies, simultaneous with oral observation or manifestation as the NBOC will not entertain any opposition or observation unless reduced to writing.

If the NBOC sees there is a proper case, the canvass of the contested COC will be deferred.

Even if the NBOC has yet to receive or canvass all of the COCs, it may terminate the canvass if the missing COCs would no longer affect the result of the elections. — **with a report from Marc Jayson Cayabyab/BM, GMA News**

9 comments

Technician. Sir d nyo po alam ang hirap dhil comment lng kau ng comment nging part dn ako ng election !! plsss dahan dhan lng

ISRAELIT3S. They need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay

included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo

ISRAELIT3S. Failure of Election.

Bagong Ani. Hindi naman araw araw ang election. bakit kailangan mag-rest? alam naman nating lahat that time is a major factor during election. we can't afford to relax and give unscrupulous parties time to perform their magic tricks on the poll results. don't get me wrong. i know tao lang din kayo at napapagod pero dapat pinaghandaan na yan. palpak na nga ang ibang pcos machines pati ba naman sa leadership ng comelec papalpak pa din tayo ngayon? saka na yang pahinga pahinga na yan pag nailabas na ang resulta.

kram witwit. hanu ba yan! automated na! kung kelan automated na me nalalaman pang pa suspend suspend! eh nung mano mano naman tinatpos ah! kahit kandila lng ang gamit! ayos talga! quality! Basura mga taga COMELEC! bulok nyo grabe!

(Reply to kram witwit) **ISRAELIT3S.** Bulok talaga, pano kasi ung pinuno eh isang bulati na lang di pa pumipirma eh.

John-John Gacita Cabrillos. Dapat tuloy2x ang pag canvass baka magka gapangan yan mamaya sa result ahahahaha :)

Fail_blog. Why suspend? Lack of time LoL. Lumang tugtugin na yan.

Trebor Cuadrante. hmhhh bakit tuesday simulan kagad wag na mag i delay pa baka mapalitan pa.....

Comelec website down an hour after polling precincts open

[Mark Jayson Cayabyab](#)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) website was down just an hour after the polling precincts nationwide opened at 7 a.m.

The website contained the precinct finder which shows the precinct details of voters.

GMA News Online earlier reported that the precinct finder generates the wrong location via Google Maps for some registered voters.

As of posting time, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez has yet to respond for a statement.

The country is having its second nationwide automated elections on Monday. Polling precincts nationwide opened at 7 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m. — **RSJ, GMA News**

2 comments

Mambo Jumbo. wala naman kasi kwenta yang comelec kaya di yan inaayos ng google maps... ano naman makukuha ng google maps dyan? at saka bat kailngan i google map yan eh pag alam mo na presinto mo, alam mo na kung saang barangay ka pupunta, then dun mo na hanapin...di yung gusto nyo pang subuan... spoon feeding na kayo masyado!

benpmalabuyoc. Nakakahiya o sinasadya?

Complaints of PCOS failures still tiny fraction of 78,000 machines

TJ Dimacali



Man uses umbrella to fix jammed PCOS machine . An unidentified man uses an umbrella to 'troubleshoot' a PCOS machine after it jammed on voting day at a polling precinct in Quezon City on Monday, May 13. Pia Arcangel

With the general election period already more than two-thirds of the way through, anecdotal reports continue to pour in regarding the supposed unreliability of the automated election system.

But the total number of malfunctioning voting machines may still end up being a tiny, acceptable fraction of the 78,000 machines nationwide, most of which seemed to work just fine.

Complaints started almost as soon as the precincts opened at 7 a.m. Dozens of reports of glitches in Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) voting machines came in from across the country.

As of 4 p.m., GMA News was able to field some 1,000 complaints related to PCOS machines, ranging from unreadable ballots at a precinct in Batangas to a drained PCOS machine battery in Cotabato City.

One concerned citizen in Santiago, Isabela reported that as many as 14 PCOS machines were down as of early afternoon. Yet another reported that the machines in Mangataram, Pangasinan did not have an operator. It was not clear, however, if these problems have since been resolved.

The reports were fielded via telephone and social media through the Eleksyon 2013 Incident Tracker, a joint effort between GMA News and the AMA Education System.

Yet despite numerous reports of machine glitches and hitches in the voting process, the Comelec still considers the elections to be largely successful.

"Yung reports natin (of problems and machine failures) ay madalang, yung tipong isa o dalawa lang per municipality, so hindi sya matuturing na failure of election," Comelec commissioner Christian Robert Lim told GMA News in a TV interview.

"And kahit magkaroon ng failure, they can still vote manually," he added.

The poll agency is confident that it will see at most a two percent failure rate — equivalent to 1,560 machines out of the 78,000 units deployed, an apparently acceptable failure rate.

In any event, the Comelec assured the public that it has 2,000 spare machines on standby to replace malfunctioning units.

On the other hand, Smartmatic Asia was even more optimistic of the performance of its own machines: the government's PCOS machine supplier expects no more than 300 machines to fail – less than half a percent of all the machines distributed across the country.

"Throughout the day, we will reach 200 or 300 (replacements). Of course, it's uncomfortable. If that happens, everybody would feel that the precinct is collapsing. But that's more or less the nature of an automated elections in any country," said Smartmatic Asia president Cesar Flores in a chance interview at the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) national canvassing center.

In addition to the problems related to PCOS machines, an array of other issues bedeviled voters on Monday.

According to crowdsourced data as of 4 p.m., some 1,200 "Comelec admin problems" were reported to GMA News – about 20 percent more reports than those listed under "PCOS machine problems".

Such problems ranged from slow lines in Lubao, Pampanga, to leaky roofs in a precinct in Rosario, Batangas.

The breakdown of complaints fielded by the Eleksyon 2013 Incident Tracker as of 4 p.m. were as follows:

- Comelec admin problems: 1,240
- PCOS machine problems: 1,063
- Cheating attempts 498
- Other violations: 368
- Brownout and other infrastructure problems: 196
- Violence and intimidation: 168
- Others: 2,704

— **HS, GMA News**

3 comments

Jeffrey Hernandez. kaya maraming nasira ng pcos machines is due to the lack of hands on training ng mga bei's. dapat bigyan ng comelect ng mahabang panahon ang training ng mga bei's sa sunod na election. tandaan natin na mga teachers ang bei's hindi sila familiar sa mga machines na to. sabi nga sa kabilang channel, dapat daw mga cashiers na lang pinahapawak sa mga pcos kasi alam nila mag troubleshoot pag nag paper jam..hehe pero grabe, dami bomoto kay nancy..wew..

(Reply to Jeffrey Hernandez) **ISRAELIT3S.** lakas vote buying ni nancy binay sa cavite eh. malamang pera ng mga tiga makati ginamit dun.

Danny Guasis Mariano. masyado yatang advance ang ppcrv bakit sila meron ng bilang ng balota.daig pa nila ang comelec.meron ginagawang milagro ang ppcrv.una pa sila sa comelec masyado yatang high tech sila kaysa sa comelec.ipaliwanag ninyo sabi ng comelec tigil mina ang canvasing

Election day brownouts hit areas in NCR, other parts of the country

Brownouts hit parts of Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, and Mindanao on Election Day on Monday as repair crews rushed to complete repair work in affected areas.

Manila Electric Co. (MECO) spokesperson Dina Lomotan cited reports about brownouts in Taguig City in Metro Manila, and in parts of Laguna province.

"Meron kaming incident sa Taguig, nawalan ito bago 8:00 a.m. at naibalik naman," she said in an interview on radio dzBB.

Lomotan also mentioned reports about power outages in Calamba, Laguna.

She said a problem was detected with the transformer box of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

On Twitter, the Department of Energy (DOE) said it expected to restore power to some areas of Batangas by 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

The DOE also said it is verifying a power outage in Lapu Lapu City, Cebu, an area serviced by Mactan Electric.

It likewise reported a tripping in Iligan City that caused an outage in the distribution system. The DOE said pole replacement restoration may be completed by 1:00 p.m.

(video)

Power outlook

Meanwhile, figures from the NGCP indicated that Mindanao may still face a possible energy deficit on Election Day.

In its power situation outlook for Mindanao as of 4:00 p.m. Sunday, the NGCP indicated peak demand may exceed system capacity for the day.

The NGCP said Mindanao may have a system capacity of 1,151 megawatts throughout the day, but the peak demand may be 1,174 megawatts in the morning, 1,159 in the afternoon, and 1,222 in the evening.

Such figures may translate to a deficit in gross reserves of 23 megawatts in the morning, 8 megawatts in the afternoon, and 55 megawatts in the evening, the NGCP said.

However, for Luzon and Visayas, the NGCP indicated enough reserve power, including 2,186 megawatts for Luzon and 390 megawatts for Visayas as of 6 a.m. Monday.

The NGCP's 6:00 a.m. power situation outlook indicated a system capacity of 8,815 megawatts for Luzon, with demand likely to peak at 6,629 megawatts.

In Visayas, the NGCP said the power outlook indicated a system capacity of 1,764 megawatts and a likely peak demand of 1,374 megawatts.

On Saturday, the DOE indicated sufficient power reserves for Mindanao on Election Day, with a capacity of 1,322 megawatts for the day.

However, at the time, it only projected the peak demand for the day at 994 megawatts in the morning, 998 megawatts in the afternoon, and 1,128 megawatts in the evening.

On May 10, the DOE asked gas stations, especially those in Mindanao, to use their own generator sets on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Election Power Task Force, where the DOE is a member, expressed gratitude to major mall chains for heeding its call to reduce power demand on Election Day.

In Department Circular DC2013-05-0007 dated May 10, the DOE noted thin reserves in Mindanao "despite the directive to run all power plants at full capacity particularly the hydropower plant."

Taguig voting

Meanwhile, according to GMA reporter Steve Dailisan, the Ricardo Elementary School in Lower Bicutan Taguig City experienced a power interruption after a transformer exploded.

However, voting in Taguig continued despite the brownout because the Precinct Count Optical Scanners (PCOS) machines have 12-hour standby batteries.

“[Ang] aga aga pa umuusok na agad [yung transformer] pero kahit papaano nakakaboto naman,” a voter told Dailisan in an interview on Monday morning.

However, Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) are worrying that if the power interruption carries on through the night, it may greatly affect the elections.

The BEI is currently waiting for Meralco personnel to respond and repair the transformer.

Malfunctioning of PCOS machines

Meanwhile, six to seven PCOS machines have malfunctioned in a cluster precinct in Taguig City.

According to Dailisan's report in Taguig City, at least 1,000 voters are affected which has roughly 325,000 registered voters and has the lowest voter turn-out in Metro Manila at 59 percent in 2010.

Those affected were instructed to shade their ballots and be on standby until the PCOS technicians have fixed the machines.

There were also voters who can't find their names in the voter's list in their respective precincts in Taguig.

A Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) representative said that they still can't identify the reason for this.

He said that affected voters should report this to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and go to Comelec Taguig to ask for a certification to vote. - **with Andrei Medina, VVP, GMA News**

2 comments

KernelDebugger Galingan. <https://www.facebook.com/photo...> reklamo ng isang tao....

Guest. paki confirm po kung totoo po ito...

Eleksyon 2013: Hitches and glitches

As election day unfolds, reports of PCOS machine malfunctions and other problems are coming in from across the country. Here is a cross sample of what's going on, as shared by GMA News reporters and concerned citizens via social media (Storify insert):

Suzette Dalumpines [@zettelalumpines](#)

*Despite the rain, voters line up at Tenement Elem School in Taguig to cast their votes.
#Eleksyon2013 @YouScoop pic.twitter.com/Ak2qNQyUcC*

[6:41 PM - 13 May 2013](#)





kalat ng matatanda, nililinis ng bata :| #MalingMali! #DapatTama ..Hopefully mageffort naman yung mga... [instagram.com/p/ZP0v6fo5Rr/](https://www.instagram.com/p/ZP0v6fo5Rr/) [MARICON PAYTE@ICONICHIWA](https://www.facebook.com/MARICONPAYTE@ICONICHIWA)

jhonny clemente @ClementeJhonny

*Election Hightide @hagonoy,bulacan @24OrasGMA @DapatTama @Eleksyon2013
@gmanews @YouScoop pic.twitter.com/WUvBzovPCY*

[5:32 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



[Sheryll Joy Viguilla @bonellishelly](#)

PCOS machine sa Buhatan Integrated National School ginamitan ng stick para bumaba ang balota [@gmanews](#) [#eleksyon2013](#) pic.twitter.com/BHyF20LhiP

[5:21 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



[GMA News @gmanews](#)

.@karadavid reports from Almario ES in Tondo, Manila: "Nagkakatakutan na. Ang mga tao, takot na takot." [#Eleksyon2013](#)

[5:23 PM - 13 May 2013](#)

[Lawrence Arrogante @17Arrogante](#)

May namimigay ng campaign materials dito sa Llano Elem School. Bawal to, diba?
[@gmanews](#) [#Eleksyon2013](#) [@COMELEC](#) [pic.twitter.com/mN4DVMFqlz](#)

[4:58 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



[Bucci Lopez @vegasboy21](#)

[@gmanews](#) sira at di gumaganang PCOS! Wlang technician! [#attentioncomelec](#) at Brgy Halang Calamba Laguna pic.twitter.com/oMa7GtJIH

[4:23 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



[Ruffy Biazon @ruffybiazon](#)

Suspected flying voters caught in Bayanan Elem Sch Unit 1, Bgy Bayanan, Muntinlupa City. Brought to the police station already

[3:50 PM - 13 May 2013](#)

[Kara David @karadavid](#)

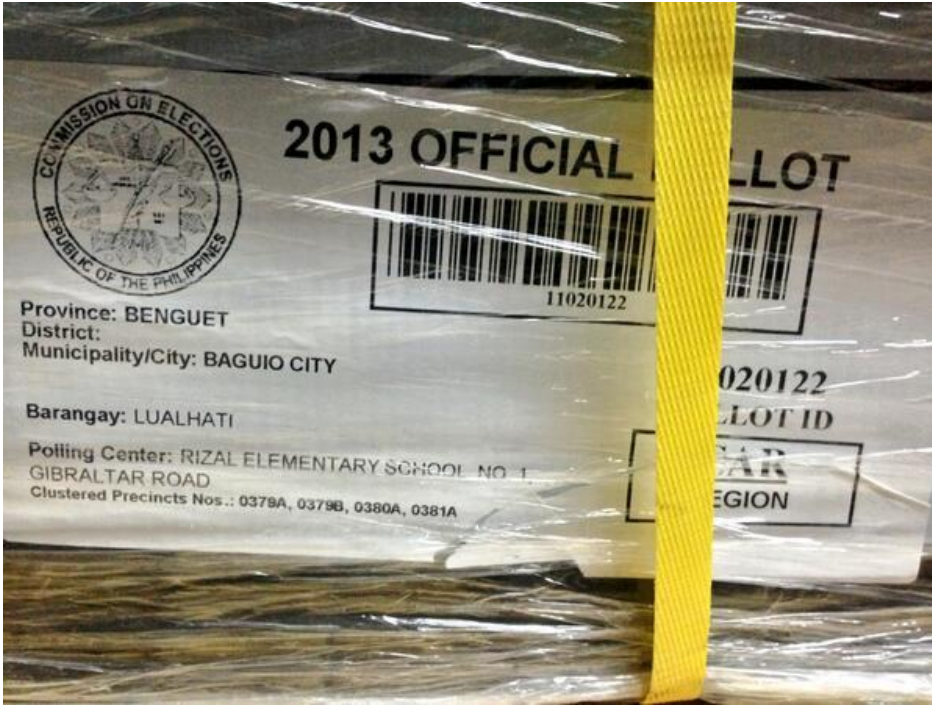
Almario Elem School Tondo naubusan na ng tinta ang markers ng ilang presinto. Ayon sa Comelec wala na silang mabibigay na supplies

[3:38 PM - 13 May 2013](#)

[charisse victorio @charisevictorio](#)

Comelec bguio: Investigation will be conducted 2 find outhow ballots of compval & bguio were interchanged. #Eleksiyon2013 pic.twitter.com/BY4pM1gwKw

[3:02 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



[Aubrey Carampel @aubreycarampel](#)

BEIs in Esteban Abada School in QC complaining Comelec issued markers, "mabilis maubos ang tinta" pic.twitter.com/9vyBBuwvR7

[3:00 PM - 13 May 2013](#)



6 comments

ISRAELIT3S. I think we have a "Failure of Election"...

efren. pano, magkakaroon aberya ngayon e dapat nacheck na yan during the testing and sealing days ago. icheck pagkakainsert ng CF cards baka baliktad. Dapat with ease pagpasok ng CF card.

Liza Datu. Dito po sa Cangatba, Porac, Pampanga. Sira ang mga picos machine o may depekto at d tinatanggap yung papel, kaya gingawa nila pag katapos bumoboto itatabi muna yung form kya d man naipapasok sa picos machine kya sa sobrang dami na ng votersform halos ksing kapal na ng dictionary ang mga Voters Form ang nka tambak D2

RicCarl Jaz Cadera. baka gumagana ng maayus ang kasu! sinasadya yang mga iyan.imposibli.

Renester Suralta. Comelec merged 3 precincts into 1 resulted to congestion and long line-up of voters under the heat of the sun. Before it was 200-300 voters per precinct now its 800 to 900 per precinct.

nyukradaregg. I think they should re start the machine to make it works just restarted it and it will works as the same as the computer did when glitches occurred..wxtra patience..we will come this one for the good of All..PILIPINO..Mabuhay po tayo at maging marangal sa Gawi at pag liisip..Mabuting PILIPINO para sa Progresibong PILIPINAS..

Erap still leads Manila mayoralty race

(Updated 12:29 a.m., 14 May 2013) Former president and San Juan Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada is leading a tight race for the mayorship of Manila, based on partial and unofficial results of the canvassing at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

With 92 percent of the votes unofficially canvassed, Estrada got 327,592 votes, 31,578 more than his rival Alfredo Lim, who got 296,014 votes.

Estrada's running mate Isko Moreno got 376,319 votes to Lou Veloso's 225,238.

Partial and unofficial results were released to the public and the media once 60 percent or 871 of the 1,452 precincts in Manila were able to transmit election returns.

The Manila Board of Canvassers (MBOC) flashed the first partial results at around 9 p.m., with about 75 percent of votes canvassed.

Lim arrived at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium shortly after the first partial results were flashed, but refused to comment on the results.

“No comment muna. [Pero siguro] mga 11 o’clock malalaman na natin yan,” Lim told reporters. But in an interview aired over GMA News, Lim said he will be a good sport and concede to Estrada, should the former president win.

“Okay lang ho, sport naman [ako], kung siya talaga ang nanalo, e di I will concede. Pero kung ako naman manalo, dapat siya ang magconcede,” Lim said.

The mayoralty race in the country’s capital is among the tightest, with election-related violence marring the days leading up to election day.

Meanwhile, shortly after results of 86 percent of the votes were canvassed, Estrada faced the media in a press conference in front of the Manila City Hall.

Estrada thanked supporters and discussed his initial plans for the city, should he be proclaimed mayor.

“Taos-puso akong nagpapasalamat sa mga sumuporta sa akin, lalung-lalo na ang mga nasa Lungsod ng Maynila. Marami kaming pag-iisipan ni Vice Mayor Isko Moreno para sa Maynila—pabahay sa mga mahihirap, kakulangan ng trabaho,” he said.

Impeached former president Estrada is running against Lim, who staged his bid for a third consecutive term under the Liberal Party.

The two have traded tirades in media and student debates in the past, even before the start of the local campaign period.

Earlier Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes announced that local election results may be in by midnight or earlier.

“Local proclamation [is possible] by midnight, national proclamation in 24 hours after polls close,” he said.

Estrada speaks

At 11:44 p.m., Estrada's camp released a statement which called him "Mayor-elect Joseph 'Erap' Estrada".

"I thank the great people of Manila for putting a true son of Manila at the helm of the Philippine capital city," it read in part.

"Dear Manileños, I will not fail you. I was born in Manila, and I will die working to bring back the glory and pride to Manila," it continued.

Estrada vowed to "work harder than I have ever done in my past loftier political positions" and asked his opponents and the people of Manila to "finally leave politics behind" to put "Manila back to the pedestal of being once one of the greatest cities of the world, the Paris of Asia."

In an interview with Susan Enriquez aired at GMA's Eleksyon 2013 broadcast, Estrada noted that he is willing to have a meeting with Lim as long as the latter invited him.

"Because of his experience baka makatulong siya," he said.

The former president vowed to serve Manila residents to the last years of his life.

"Taos puso akong nagpapasalamat sa aking mga kababayan sa lungsod na aking sinilangan... sa mga taong nagtiwala sa akin at yan naman ay susuplayan ko ng buong katapatan at paglilingkod sa huling mga taon ng aking buhay."

"Kitang-kita ng mga Manilenyo na napag-iwanan na ang lungsod natin... Masyado nang marami ang problema ng lungsod ng Maynila kaya [kailangan na nga pagbabago]," he added.— **with a report from Rouchelle R. Dinglasan/KBK/BM, GMA News**

208 comments

Cassandra. District 1 population is too damn high.

Francis Chong. Congrats Mayor Elect Erap hope our vote is worthy please lang po control the abuse Side Car , abuse PUJ using the whole recto reina regent as there PUJ stop one lane nalang for the past 3 yrs na po. 3rd please set a time frame for those abuse side walk vendor maybe the city could let them use 9pm to 3pm call it night market. they are killing the legit business who pay tax. paki lang po, and for those making negative comment about why we vote Erap is because u never live in Manila so u have no idea what u guys talking about.

REIGN. HND PO NAPAG IWANAN ANG MAYNILA DHIL CLA LANG PO ANG TANGING LUGAR N LHAT NG DISTRITO AY MY LIBRENG OSPITAL N NAIPATAYO NI LIM...AT LIBRENG KOLEHIYO DHILA NAIPATAYO NI LIM

ANG CCM...C ERAP KHIT ISANG LIBRENG OSPITAL WLANG NAIPATAYO KHIT PO MGA TAGA PROBINSYA PO NAKIKINABANG SA NAPATAYONG OSPITAL NI LIM..WLA PONG IBANG MAYOR NA GUMAWA NYAN SA MAYNILA..

Guest. HND PO NAPAG IWANAN ANG MAYNILA DHIL CLA LANG PO ANG TANGING LUGAR N LHAT NG DISTRITO AY MY LIBRENG OSPITAL N NAIPATAYO NI LIM...AT LIBRENG KOLEHIYO DHILA NAIPATAYO NI LIM ANG CCM...C ERAP KHIT ISANG LIBRENG OSPITAL WLANG NAIPATAYO KHIT PO MGA TAGA PROBINSYA PO NAKIKINABANG SA NAPATAYONG OSPITAL NI LIM..

dodong charing. isko + erap in manila = expect bigtime corruption.

Jan Anceno. ganyan talaga, wala tayo magagawa kung talagang maraming kababayan natin na kapos sa kaalaman at nag babase lang sa pangalan at kung sino mananalo.

may nakausap ako taga manila (btw di ako taga manila ah.) tanong ko, sino boboto mo? si erap raw, tanong ko bakit mo sya boboto? sagot nya, eh kasi sya mananalo eh at sikat sya. di nalang ako kumibo (sabi ko sa sarili ko wtf!).

wala tayo magagawa kung si erap nanalo. im not favor of erap or lim. pero pinaka sagot dito kung ayaw natin maging mang mang ung mga kapwa pilipino, mag tulungan tayo, kahit ung simpleng pag eeducate sa mga kababayan natin at ung mga susunod na henerasyon.

malayo pa ung educational security sa pilipinas, baka di ko nga makita yan till mamatay ako. hope for the best, and mag tulungan dapat lahat, wag i-asa sa mga politiko ung kabuhayan natin, mag banat ng buto at mag sikap, hindi ung mag hihintay lang ng grasya araw araw at mag tatambay.

juan dela cruz. suportahan n lng natin ang nanalo, un ang dapat, un ang TAMA.

(Reply to juan dela cruz) Bulakenyo Ako. susuporta kami kung sa ikabubuti at hindi sa katiwalian ang gagawin nila.

Solome. ang daming bitter dito mga walang utak..unang una di mananalo yan kung maganda ginawa ni mayor lim at gusto pa xa ng mga taga manila..pangalawa..na impeach si erap kasi mautak si gloria na ginamit at sinuhulan lahat ng mga colonel, general,at matataas na tao nuon..si erap mapagkumbaba na iniwan ang pwesto sa mapangahas na gloria..sino ba ngayon si gloria?numero unong mandaraya at mandarambong..nsan na mga aroyo ngayon?e bakit mga estrada popular padin?at yung mga bitter kay binay mukang tanga lang kasi masyado silang ng fofucuz sa background ng tao..

jonski22. ok lang ako kay Erap win in Manila.. ok lang ako nanalo si Roland "Shabu" Singson sa Ilocos... ok lang ako sa iba pang hindi dapat nanalo..eh nanalo... pero hindi ako maka-move on na si Nancy Binay pang 5th sa Senado...amputs...

(Reply to jonski22) **Bulakenyo Ako.** live with it...welcome Pinoy mentality.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** ang mapapayo ko sa yo, bro, walang gamot sa insecure

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **Bulakenyo Ako.** meron nga...yung mawala lang ang pagka-istupido ng mga ibang Pinoy tuwing halalan....tulad mo!

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** dapat yung gusto mong kandidato n lng ang mananalo. wala na dapat botohan! noh?

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** antagal nmn maalis ang sakit sa pagkatalo mo bro. si lim na nga ang panalo hahahaha

Juami Osmeña. Accept it and move forward. Mag-isip na lang tayo ng ika-uunlad ng ating mga sarili, or kung anong magagawa natin para sa iba. Wag padala sa pulitika, ganun talaga. Baka mamatay lang tayo ng puno ng hinanakit sa mga pulitiko kapag ganyan tayo ng ganyan.

Eve. I'm not from Manila,I'm glad that Erap is leading..You should not judge him,though he was convicted in the past,try to review naman the good things he contributed in our country when He was the president,economic status is fine,wages are high..

Ar-Ar Rueda. godbless nalang manila city... and good luck.. yan pinili ng nakakadami eh...

Ofwuae. Hayzzzz.....khit si perpekto p ilagay nyo....iboto nyo...dahil sa sinabing pulitika, marumi tlga yan. Bkit noon si gloria di b mas malinis sya kaysa ka erap. Ano ngayon? Mas matalino pero mas masahol p.....sa bobo...

Pearl of the Orient. Let's hope & pray that he will perform his duties & promises. Hope he will not do it abusing his power again before when he still our president.

We should accept & support all the candidates to perform their duties,instead of destroying them. We should always remind them that the Filipino people put them their, the people should deserve a good results that they expect & they will get.

Let's just focus of helping & constructing our mother land & let her be more competitive from other country. for our people & for our future generations to come.

(Reply to Pearl of the Orient) **Bulakenyo Ako.** Its hard to erase some doubts especially people (candidates) with questionable history and obvious character. The votingpublic should be wary of this but instead choose to ignore it bec of personality idolatry and grease money. A lot of Filipino voters still never learn their lesson.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. dapat sinabi mo sana sa comelec na ung gusto m olang na kandidato ang mananalo para nde na nagbotohan. sayang no?

Ice Villafranca. bakit MISS d ano ba nagawa nyan? sige nga...

Miss D.. Dapat Tama! Matatanda na kayo alam nyo na ang Tama at Mali. Let's see kung ano ang magagawa ng ISKORAP tandem. Yan ang resulta sa pagtanggap nyo ng cellphones and 500pesos. Bokya na naman ang MAYNILA. Erap is like Atienza. History repeat itself. BITTER ako!! ;) at least aminado diba? Sa lahat ng bitter dyan don't worry makaka move on din tayo!

Ice Villafranca. hay salamat naman..nag bago din...paulit ulit Alfredo lim ano ba yan! buti na lang...

(Reply to Ice Villafranca) **glaiza**. Kabayan nagbago nga mas malala ang pinili nio.dti ninakawan ang bansang Pilipinas ngaun Manila nman ang pagnanakawan.kawawang mamayan.

Bernie. Ayos panalo si erap! mababago na rin ang Maynila sana gumanda na rin di katulad ngayon parang nabubulok na at walang ka progreso progreso.

em. Hahahahaha tama yan mag jeteng para naman sa tao un pag nanalo sila. Wla naman nakaw dun hahahaha. Go erap! Kawawa si lim hahahahs

r a carlos. Hindi ko alam kung gaano katatanga ang mga tao sa PILIPINAS . EX CONVICT binoboto pa. Alam na nila kung anomg klaseng TAO si ERAP . Nanalo pa. Papanong naging qualified siya na EX CONVICT . Wala bang law diyan na hindi pwedeng mag hawak ng katungkulan sa bayan ang EX CONVICT? Katatanga naman .

(Reply to r a carlos) **Bulakenyo Ako**. Sana nga ay may ma-ani ang mga taga Manila kung may itanim nga si Erap sa mga pangako nya.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **Vhortex Morpheus**. Pabayaran natin ke Erap ang pinagmamalaki nyang utang ni Lim na nag simula pa noong umupo si Atienza. Sabi nya izero nya yan in less than 2 years. Pano kya?

(Reply to Vhortex Morpheus) **Bulakenyo Ako**. Isasa-pelikula nya ito pero fictitious.

wewenex. Wow! I heard that many times over. Susmiyo! Walang sisihan mga manilenyo. I mean, I am neither for Lim nor for Erap. The two have been in the business since time immemorial. Ngayon, magpie-pyesta nanaman ang mga galamay ni Erap. Naku po! Tingnan natin...

(Reply to wewenex) **Vhortex Morpheus**. Jueteng everywhere, legal na lahat ng gambling.

Fz20. yan ang pinoy, kahit magnanakaw, maniac,sugarol, lasenggo -basta't artista ayos na-hypnotise na, . this is a new challenge to educated populace and probably lawmakers.Anong mangyayari sa bansa kung puro ganito ang iboboto ng masang pilipino.it so happens na marami sila, and you would live w/ them and their ghetto politicians and mentality. and whatever will be the outcome of those politicians moves.This gives a very heartbreaking tragic example of disaster as most youth would interpret and live by the example of these filthy hideous person/s.Akala ko bawal tumakbo for public office ang mga convicted criminals kahit na may official pardon- for political reasons?

smiley. im not a voter but i'm against the results. The winner was an ex convict not to mention the cause of EDSA Dos. i cant believe People still believed him. nadala ng charisma at pangalan. akala ko gising na ang mga pilipino sa ganitong klase ng mga tao. napaso na nga sinubo pa ulit. People kept on screaming for a change but they didnt vote wisely. i just hope the best for Manila

(Reply to smiley) **glaiza.** Tama ka.kawawang mamayan naniwala na nman aa pangako na mapapako lng.uubusin lng pera ng gobyerno, ipambabae, ipagsusugal, bakasyon grande at ang tungkulin sa bayan ay kakalimutan.nakakapanlambot.

(Reply to smiley) **Bulakenyo Ako.** Frustrating indeed but just hope for the best...

Bulakenyo Ako. Ordinary pinoyos forget things so easily. Oh well.. we only deserve the kind of government that we get - for being a bunch of dumb voters. Anyway good luck to all Manilenos. May you prosper under this new administration and hope that all their sweet promises will not be thrown into the garbage.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** taos pusong tanggapin ang pagkatalo bro... hahahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **Bulakenyo Ako.** wala akong paki kung sino manalong mayor ng Manila. Nag-oobserba lang po.Pero gusto ko rin makita maganda ang Manila kahit sino maupo

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** panalo na daw si lim. wag ka na umiyak!

A comment was deleted.

A comment was deleted.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** masakit ba pag natalo? wahahahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **Bulakenyo Ako.** Bakit mo dine-delete ang commentary ko?...its unfair.unacceptable at unethical ito! Kapag hindi na-aayon sa kagustuhan mo ang opinyon ng iba ay ganito pala ang gagawin mo?Hindi ka dapat sumasali dito.

Matuto kang tumanggap ng mga kritisismo. Hindi ka pala pepwede sa diskusyunang pampulitika.

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. kaya ko palang magdelete ng message ng iba! galing mobro! iyak pa bro, mawawala din yan!

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) Bulakenyo Ako. nope! coz i could care less...you are right ..the people have spoken...and you deserve it...

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. yun! tanggapin nang maluwas sa loob ang pagkatalo ng manok!

(Reply to Bulakenyo Ako) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. iiyak mo lang yan bro! lakasan mo!

rickycruz. Isa pah!...kaya NANALO si Erap para sa Mahirap!.. Sangkatutak kc ang MAHIRAP sa manila! rejoice!..YAYaman na kayo lahat!.. LOL

Guest. Ayaw ko rin si Erap pero gaya ng post ko bago mageleksyon, mas gustuhin ko pa ang isang "pardoned plunderer" na magiging Mayor ng Maynila kaysa Lim. Hindi dapat katapusan ito sa isyu laban sa mga pekeng birth certificates ni Lim na ibinisto ni Atty. Harry Roque. Kung di mapatunayan ni Lim na mali ang akusasyon laban sa kanya ay dapat parusahan siya dahil si Atienza pa rin dapat ang Mayor ng Maynila dahil hindi Pilipino si Lim. May parusa dapat siya sa tagal niyang niloko ang mga Manilenyo. Sana hindi titigilan ito ni Erap at Isko Moreno dahil sa perwisyo at pahirap ginawa ni Lim laban sa kanila sampu na ng mga konsehal ng Maynila.

catmanjohn. The only way a clown like Erap would win is through fixing the elections. The people of Manila can't be that stupid...or Can they?

(Reply to catmanjohn) Herbert Pascual Domingo. Mayor na si Erap sa Manila. No fixing that was happened on the election....

(Reply to Herbert Pascual Domingo) catmanjohn. There is No trust for anything in the Philippines. How can there be genuine progress where there is No trust or respect of anything, your fellow man? unless you are a sewer rat that loves the stench of sewers, the sight of starving and overpopulated families, the stench and squalor brothels next to hotels that claim to be four stars, and the multitudes of farce perpetrated by corrupt leaders, then this is heaven.

(Reply to catmanjohn) Guest. Here's a was cloth, wipe your tears.

(Reply to Guest) catmanjohn. The world will need it when we laugh to see the Philippines crown itself the laughingstock of the world. Best in corruption, best in transgender beauty contests, last in Olympics, last in

industrial productivity, thanks to corrupt slime like Estrada, and lackeys like you. The Force will awaken your moral stupor with earth shattering wrath, come by end of the year.

(Reply to catmanjohn) Guest. Matagal ng laughing stock magmula ng umupo ang idol mo crybaby.

rickycruz. Wow!...kung ito na talaga ang resulta! ?

Iba talaga ang PINOY..mga kapuso noh!

or nakalimutan lang nila ang KASO ni Erap noon? (as President)

Balik na naman ang lahat ng sari - saring Negosyo sa MANILA !

IT's Fun in d PINAS.! Right ?

LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. ganun talga! taos pusong tanggapin ang pagkatalo bro... hahahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) rickycruz. LOL..im not affected though..... Nakakaawa lang ang pnoy dyan sa Manila! sana lang maging maayos si asiong? LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. tgal mo makaget over bro! hahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) rickycruz. di ka lang makaunawa ka yan ang PANanaw mo!.. LOL.... Get over?..LOL Sarap buhay here sa USA.. LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. wag ka na magpanggap bro, sarap buhay? weeehhh!? tell it to the marines...

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) rickycruz. LOL.. di bale..mararamdaman mo rin ang sarap buhay na sinasabi ko here sa STATES at malapit mo na rin maintindihan ang ..feeling ko right now! panalo si erap eh!...(erap para sa mahirap) Happy for yah!.....Mabuhay ang mga katulad mo!..(LMAO)

(Reply to rickycruz) disqus_8ixWwteL8F. madali lang magsabi na asa amerika ka? ano proof mo?

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) rickycruz. LOL.. Inggit lang yan... Magsikap ka lang !.. LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. hahaha! panggap lang yan. rugby pa. sa susunod asa buwan ka na? ala akong nakita na may ricky cruz sa fb na asa amerika... libre mangarap...

(Reply to disqus_SixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LMAO... nag research ka pa huh!..LOL di bALE..KONTING panahon na lang..di na rugby gagamitin mo...LOL Yayaman na kc ang mga mahirap for Erap...LOL di maganda ang NAIINGIT!..LOL Iwas ka dyan..at ..ARAL ka pa huh!.. LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. kawawang palaboy! tga amerika daw. hahaha tambay lang pala sa divisoria!

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. janitor o waiter sa USA?

(Reply to disqus_SixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. lol!.... Naintindihan mo ba ang word na SARAP buhay ? LOL..mahirap ang buhay ng Janitor at waiter here LOL..... Get over ka na!..LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. ah ok. gwardya ka pala jan!

(Reply to disqus_SixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LOL..sobrang Accurate ng LOGIC mo!.. LOL.. education helps you learn to read between d LINES.. sige..enroll ka na!.. LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. kaw nga jan di marunong umintindi eh!

(Reply to disqus_SixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LOL. mahirap kausap ang kulang ang pinag aralan.. LOOL.. pero kakuwa ka huh!... LOL.

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. halata nmn ikaw ang walang pinag aralan. nagpapanggap na nasa amerika. bka futura hahaha

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. yes sir! hahahahaah

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. pde pa lumaban si lim sa 2016. siguradong mas malaki ang lamang! wag bitter ganun tlga may nananalo at may natatalo. nagkataon lang manok mo natalo! iiyak mo lang yan bro mawawala din yan! hahaha

(Reply to disqus_SixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LOL..manok ko..bulik! LOL! happy ako sa iyo ..Yayaman ka na rin! Mabuhay ang mga mahihirap..!.. Btw manok ko si BINAY..LMAO!

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F**. nagpapanggap! feeling meron sya! halata nmn ala!!! Hahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LOL..wag iyakin.... Mag saya ka lang..Yayaman ka na rin.. si erap ay para sa inyo.. SABI nya yan!.....MABuhay kayo.. Kayo ang tunay na MANILENO!.. LOL

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F**. cge na nga panalo na si lim. di ka pa nakaget-over? iiyak mo lng yan. ung malakas ha! mawawala din yan.

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **rickycruz**. LOL.. u just cant really read betwen d lines!... LOL.....

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F**. di ka lang pala bitter matalino ka pa hahaha... read between the lines...

(Reply to rickycruz) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F**. galing mo tlga! gumising ka na!

(Reply to rickycruz) **Guest**. Tapos na ang boksing sa Manila. May victory speech na si Erap at handa raw siyang pagbigyan si Lim kung tutulong sa administrasyon niya. Yon ay kundi madedeport sa China si Lim.

cyberbully. erap nancy binay nanalo sa election?? bobo kayong mga bumoto, mas mahalaga ang pera kaysa karangalan ng bansa magdusa kayo!!

(Reply to cyberbully) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F**. sus! taos pusong tanggapin ang pagkatalo bro... hahahaha

(Reply to disqus_8ixWwteL8F) **Sunguard Pamiloza**. Bitter talaga mga lossers

A comment by user *royvergara* was deleted

(Reply to deleted comment) **Herbert Pascual Domingo**. Tama ka! d cla marunong tumanggap ng pagkatalo.

ding dong. hindi bobo ang nag vote kasi lahat ng lumaban bobo..

KURAKOT HATERS. Asus!!! mga Pilipino baka mamaya sabihin nyo bakit naghihirap Pilipinas, wag nyo isisisi kay PNOY yan ha, tignan nyo ba naman mga binoto nyo :(ARUUU....May Erap na , may Nancy Binay pa, ARUUU....makapgalotbalot na nga at magmigrate na lang ako ibang bansa :(Ayoko na talaga, suko na ko sa utak biya ng mga Pilipino....Goodbye PHILIPPINES :(

(Reply to KURAKOT HATERS) **Dante Labalan Molina**. di umalis ka wala naman pipigil sayo tanga.....kahit si rizal baka itakwil ka dahil sa pinag sasabi mo sa sarili mong bayan ungas

(Reply to Dante Labalan Molina) sana hindi pinoy. masangsang pa sa panis na bagoong ang nangyari sa mga pinoy ngayon, walang trabaho sa pinas kundi pumunta sa ibang bansa para apihin at gawing alipin filipini monkey eating banana, ay naku rizal mo lahi mo kayo lang ang may masarap na buhay. at saka mga pulitiko puro kayo pangako ng trabaho, anong trabaho magwalis ng kalsada at mamulot ng basura? low tech talaga street sweeper vehicle na ang dapat gamitin dyan. pag aralin ang pinoy ng bagong technology at magprogram ng industriyalisasyon hindi iyong ibang bansa magmina ng likas na yaman natin dito. emplementasyon at desiplina at patungan ng parusa at kabayaran ang lumalabag dito (kaso sa kurap yata ito mapupunta ang kita dito pero ok lang basta malinis). sana maging inspirasyon natin ang bansang singapore. malinis at maunlad.

(Reply to KURAKOT HATERS) Cassandra. edi aalis siya. sayo ba nagpaalam? haha.

sony ihli. this is so sad for the city of manila..convicted of 95 something millions of pesos..now where do you think he is going to get this money??

glaiza. Si Erap nanalo pa rin samantalang na impeach ng taong bayan.utak ng jueteng at kung anu anu pang katiwalian.mga tao nga nman bilis makalimot naniwala na nman sa pangako, uubosin lng kaban ng bayan lalo ng nghirap ang pilipinas.kawawa nman ang bayan kong pilipinas.

(Reply to glaiza) Danzxd. walang gamot sa taong insecure.

(Reply to Danzxd) Sunguard Pamiloza. I like ur reply..cool

(Reply to Danzxd) Herbert Pascual Domingo. Tama ka..mga talunan yan eh...

(Reply to Herbert Pascual Domingo) glaiza. Hndi.ang taong bayan ang talo dito.hndi ako o yung mga taong bumoto kay lim wag nio isarado uta nio at wag mgbulagbulagan kung anungklaseng tao ang nanalo.oo panalo ka kc mkakatanggap ka ng kukurakutinni erap.dako talo wala ako jan sa pinas ofw ako at naawaako sa mamayan at sa bayan

Conan. HAY sana makpasok man lang c BRO. EDDIE

for good. sa tingin ko lang naman mas maganda p rin kay erap kesa kay lim kasi lalo naging magulo ang maynila eh... just a thought lang...

(Reply to for good) Vhortex Morpheus. Sana tama ang ginawang pagboto ng mga tao ke Erap in Manila. He is even not a resident in Manila on the first place. Just pray that the city won't turn into a gambling capital.

(Reply to for good) MONTOMS. For good , if erap wins i hope maayos nga niya yung magulo na sinabi mo, dahil totoo eh, marami dapat ayusin , ang baha sa harap ng city hall, ipa linis lahat ng drainage system ng mabilis humupa ang baha, disiplinahan ang pedicab, kuliglig drivers, pati jeep, fx, at bus, isa ayos ang ibang vendors ilagay sa tamang lugar, tangalin ang mga vendor sa tabi ng city hall ng maynila at marami pa... Sana gawa hindi salita lang sana nasa puso, hindi sa isip lang.

(Reply to MONTOMS) Herbert Pascual Domingo. That will be happen if nobody will destruct the new mayor of manila...

(Reply to Herbert Pascual Domingo) dudong. nice english

ditch. this is BS... how come si erap magging mayor ng may nila galing sya sa san juan tapos manila naman ngayon??? thats not rite ... dapat kung ka resident dun ka lumaban and kung sino man bubuto saknya tanga kasi yall know what he did as a president ...wala

Ronald. Pinakabobong lungsod. Baka ma Guinness book kayo nyan, Manila.

(Reply to Ronald) Cassandra. pinakabobong district #? haha.

(Reply to Ronald) Sunguard Pamilozza. Matalino ka eh.. sana kinampanya mo sarili mo.. magaling ka at walang bahid kasalanan..

(Reply to Sunguard Pamilozza) REIGN. HND MO KAILANGAN MAGING MATALINO SA PAGKILALA NG POLITIKO..KAILANGAN MO LAMANG ALAMIN ANU MAPAPALA NG BAYAN MO SA BINOTO MO..PAGANAHIIN MO YANG KONSENSYA MO..BGO KA MANINDIGAN SA POLITIKONG PINANINIWALAAN MO

(Reply to REIGN) Cassandra. oo yung iba di gnamit talino sa pagboto. inisip lang nila sino makakapagbgay ng pera para magastos agad. Haha

(Reply to Sunguard Pamilozza) Ronald. Thanks! pero gaya ng lahat, me mga kasalanan rin ako, pero di ako nagnakaw sa kaban ng taong bayan. E ni hindi pa nga naisosoli nyan ang kalahati ng perang kinupit, 300M pa ata mahigit tapos ginawa nyo pang mayor hahahaa. Guinness!

Bukli. Sa mga nagko comment dito na maka herap, hahaaayyyy.....pare-pareho kayong mga bopol!

(Reply to Bukli) MONTOMS. Bukli, nauunawaan ko ang sa loobin mo, ako negative tingin ko kina erap, ngunit kung sya na nga ang nanalo hintayin muna natin kung may mag babago nga... Kung meron good , kung ala, doon tayo babanat. At dapat punto por punto.

(Reply to MONTOMS) **rickycruz.** sigurado madaming MAG babago!
LOL..(u know wot i mean!)

Bukli. Pati si Isko e ibinoto din! Si balimbing. Hahahaha....Kayong mga maka-erap 100% lalo kayo mag heherap. Yayyyyy.....

(Reply to Bukli) **Sunguard Pamiloza.** Cge kaw na yayaman..

A comment by user *Bukli* was deleted

(Reply to deleted comment) **haroldaguila.** di na tanga ang mga pinoy at manilenyo.alam nmin pakawala ka ng kalaban.tanggapin mo na lang talo c lolo fred,kht saang labanan nila di pa nananalo c lolo fred,,panis!!!!

Lance Pangilinan. wat a nice pero dpat masubukan muna sla bnay bago manghusga

Bukli. Ke dami pa ring T A N G A na mga botante sa Manila....Dadami na naman W E T E N G 4 sure dyan sa manila. Dami nakuha sa 500piso. Wahhhhh.....

(Reply to Bukli) **gloc07.** tumaya kanalang baka saklaing tumamma kapa eh di masaya.... parang ang talino mo nmn hahahahha.... makapanghusga ka kala mo weh perfect ka.... un ang gusto ng taga manila.. wla kang pakialam.....

(Reply to Bukli) **ricardo.** Mga tanga talaga pinagpalit sa konting halaga magdusa kayo ngayon ng 3 taon . . .")

A comment by user *hagakhak* was deleted

(Reply to deleted comment) **budoypickup.** congressman ka ba? pabor ka sa hueteng e, laking kita ulit yun dagdag sa porkbarel.

redsnow. 2016 Poltical Scenario

Estrada Clan Versus Binay Clan

President Erap Jojo Binay

Vice President

Senate President JV Ejercito Nancy Binay

House of Speaker Jinggoy Estrada Abigail Binay

agecee. We are the dumbest voters in the world

(Reply to agecee) **MONTOMS.** We are not, not all, dont say that. Heads up who ever wins, just do our good part in our society. Even others may not.

(Reply to MONTOMS) **ECHO.** kahit cno naman uupo ganun parin!!!!!!!isinuka c erap ang pomalit mbuting pangulo ba? eh mas masahol pa nga sa gnawa ni erap

redsnow. Pag manalo si Erap sa Maynila ... Humanda ka Binay totous kayu sa 2016 Presidential election malapit ng makapaghiganti si Erap sa di mo pagboto sa kanya last 2010 election si Pnoy ibinoto mo. Ngayun si Lim ang unang paghigantihan ni Erap at ikaw sa susunod . Sa 2016 magkabangga ang dalawang malaking dynastiya sa bansa ang Binay at Estrada clan...

agecee. Filipinos are dumbest voters

(Reply to agecee) **monchkins.** Bumoto ka ba???

(Reply to monchkins) **budoypickup.** ikaw bumoto ka?

Elnore. Ano ba naman itong mga taga Maynila, hindi nag iisip, convicted plunderer binoto pa, magdusa kayo!

(Reply to Elnore) **disqus_SixWwteL8F.** dapat ala ng eleksyon! ung pipiliin mo n lng sana ang maging mayor! tgal mo nm di makaget over te! hahahaah

(Reply to Elnore) **Ellie Gann Looy.** yon na nga dahil sa pag iisip ng taga maynila, pumili sila ng dapat mamuno. sa totoo lang "Elnore" kayo ang hindi nag iisip at siguro wala kang isip talaga. RESPECT THE WILL OF THE VOTING POPULACE OF MANILA. Manahimik ka na lang.

(Reply to Elnore) **Miss D..** yeah right.. wlang mga prinsipyo.. sayang tlga dapat c Mayor Lim nlang ulit..

(Reply to Elnore) **Sunguard Pamiloza.** Bitter..

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) **Cassandra.** wala ka na ba ibang alam na english word?

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) **Carol.** @Sunguard Pamiloza Lahat ng tumitira kay Erap Bitter nalang. Alam mo ba ibig sabihin ng bitter? hahaha... Magsama sama kayo ni Erap sa Maynila.

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) **Miss D..** ako bitter ;)

(Reply to Elnore) **tolits63.** kaawa awang taga manila,,mabuhay si MANALO ng inc...

(Reply to tolits63) **Sunguard Pamiloza.** Bitter.

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) **REIGN.** WOW MEN ALAM MO B SINASABI MO BKA WLA KANG PANININDIGAN O KASING GARAPAL NG MUKHA MO C ERAP

(Reply to REIGN) **disqus_SixWwteL8F.** bitter better!
Hahaha

(Reply to Elnore) **Herbert Pascual Domingo.** Tao ang pumili sa kanya....accept it....OK

KAY Lim ka yata eh!

O d kaw na lng sana tumakbo.....

(Reply to Herbert Pascual Domingo) **tesla_coil.** taong mangmang at di nag iisip.. mga taong nag iintay nalang ng biyaya.. tsk tsk tsk

(Reply to tesla_coil) **Bridgette.** hahahA sa squatter lang siya puro pa pogi palibasa madaling mauto. for sure dadameh magnanakaw kasi wala na si LIM yung mga taga bitas and happy land fiestang fiesta pano kargado ni ERAP.

(Reply to Bridgette) **Cassandra.** LAGOT NA.. TSKTSK

(Reply to Elnore) **Danzxd.** walang gamot sa taong insecure ang talo ai talo.. ganun lng kasimple at pano ka mananalo kung mas madaming my ayaw sayo kesa sa may gusto...

(Reply to Danzxd) **Aisah Lopez.** tama ka jan

(Reply to Aisah Lopez) **REIGN.** KAYA NMAN PO NANALO KC D2 SA AMIN S DISTRICT 1 TALAMAK ANG VOTE BUYING NI ERAP.. YUNG MGA KAPIT BAHAY PO NMAN BINAYARAN CLA PRA MANALO CERAP..KUNG MALINIS N LABAN AT WLANG VOTE BUYING IMPOSIBLENG MANALO SI ERAP..BKIT MY NAIPATAYO N B SYANG KHIT 1 LIBRENG OSPITAL...

(Reply to REIGN) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** iiyak mo lang yan mawawala na sakit sa puso mo! hahaha

(Reply to REIGN) **Cassandra.** tgnan niyo..mismong taga district 1 na ang nagkwento na talamak doon ang vote buying. thumbs up.

(Reply to Cassandra) **disqus_8ixWwteL8F.** tga district 1 din ako. binayaran din ni lim mga kapitbahay namin! ung lolo ko sa D2 binayaran din ni lim pero di nya tinanggap, sa d# binayaran din ni lim ung tito ko, binalik nya, sa d4....

(Reply to Danzxd) **Miss D..** mas maraming may gusto ng cellphones at 500 hehe

(Reply to Elnore) **monchkins.** medyo dominante ka naman!!!

(Reply to monchkins) **budoypickup.** e ika medyo ano??? nabayaran?

(Reply to budoypickup) **bernie_villorente**. Dumi ng tenga kamo, LOL!

(Reply to bernie_villorente) **budoypickup**. mas okay na madumi tenga kesa madumi ang pagkatao. :P

Elnore. Bahala kayong mga bumoto kay Nancy Binay. The Senate is going to the dogs!

(Reply to Elnore) **Guest**. nagpa affect ka na man sa idol mong si vice ganda.. pati ba hair nun ginaya mo na???

A comment by user *budoypickup* was deleted

(Reply to deleted comment) **tolits63**. he he he,,hindi yata marunong mag english nancy..

(Reply to deleted comment) **winona**. Puro physical naman pinaghuhusgahan nyo. Aanhin mo mestisa kung may sungay naman. Tumigil kayo, tingnan nyo sa gawa hindi puro dada.

(Reply to winona) **REIGN**. EH DI SANA INALAM MO BACKGROUND NI BINAY KUNG TALAGANG ANG PRINSIPYO MO TUMITINGIN SA NAGAWA

(Reply to winona) **MONTOMS**. ang mestiza pweding tangalan ng sungay, ang hindi meztiza maski alang sungay hindi parin meztiza, o walang tinutukoy na tao dto ha.

(Reply to Elnore) **Twister12**. Filipinos who voted for Binay are dogs.

(Reply to Twister12) **Sunguard Pamiloza**. Weh.

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) **Cassandra**. oo.

(Reply to Twister12) **andrew**. Hahahah

vigilanti. Hay naku leading si Herap... Nakaw nah naman ang pera sa taga Maynila...

(Reply to vigilanti) **haroldaguila**. halata naman pakawala kyo ni fred lim..tangappin nyo na talo manok nyo..

(Reply to haroldaguila) **Sunguard Pamiloza**. Good ..mga pakawala nga yan.. bitter eh..

(Reply to haroldaguila) **Carol**. e kayo, pakawala ni Erap.

(Reply to Carol) **disqus_SixWwteL8F**. tgal nmn makaget over! Hahahaahah

(Reply to haroldaguila) **royvergara**. corrct ka dyan.. haroldaguila

(Reply to Carol) Sunguard Pamiloza. Kaya nanggagalaiti mga yan kc pag nawala sa pwesto manok nila ..pati delihensya nila mawawala na..ganon lng kasimple yun.. di marunong tumanggap eh di bitter..

(Reply to vigilanti) Carol. Ano ba yan, isinuka na natin bilang presidente, nanalo pa bilang mayor ng Manila? dating mayor ng san juan, ngayon naman, mayor ng manila. Saan naman ang next?

(Reply to Carol) Sunguard Pamiloza. Bitter.

A comment by user *royvergara* was deleted.

(Reply to deleted comment) Carol. ikaw sino ka? nakapag ibang bansa ka lang, kala mo ang galing mo na? kala mo umasenso ka na? Bumalik ka dito tignan natin kung anong mangyayari sa'yo. Yang katulad mo lang ang maka erap. Convicted plunderer, pinagtatangol mo? Ang babaw pa ng argument mo. Anong natutunan mo dyan? Anong alam mo? Nag gagaling galingan!!! Baka ikaw ang may crush kay Erap...

(Reply to Carol) ECHO. MAYAMA NA C ERAP BAGO NGING PANGULO!!!!!!!KAW NLNG KAYA MAGMAYOR MAGALING KA EH

(Reply to ECHO) Carol. Oo, mayaman na si Erap bago pa nga naging Mayor ng San Juan e. Pero di mo ba alam na gusto pa nilang magpayaman? Di ka ba nagtataka, buong pamilya silang lahat nag pupumilit pumasok sa gobyerno? Isa sa mga kabit nya, mayor ng San Juan naman, 2 anak nya nasa Senado, kung makapsok si JV. Lahat ba sila gusto lang magsilbi sa bayan o laht gustong kumita na parang family business? kaw na nag bahala. Di ako taga Manila. Kung kayong mga taga Manila ay gustong magpanakaw kay Erap, e di hindi na ako magreklamo, di naman ako ang mananakawan e.

(Reply to Carol) Bukli. Agree ako sa 'yo dyan, Ate Carol. Puro 'yan ma HE...HERAP kasi e. Mga bumoto ke HERAP e lalo magheherap. Ke daming tangang botante talaga sa pinoy! Madali masuhulan. Pera-pera lang 'ika nga ang lahat. Convicted plunderer, king of Weteng pa ibinalik na naman! What a pinoy's world talaga!

(Reply to Carol) ricardo. Sa Makati nmn

(Reply to Carol) MONTOMS. Im no erap fan or lim, lets just wait what changes will happen in manila, mag ngawa man tayo yun ang resulta kung sya na nga ang nanalo.

(Reply to MONTOMS) royvergara. may puntos ka sa sinabi mo...let us wait and see at sana matagumpay ang ating next term

(Reply to royvergara) Carol. Anong wait and see? plunderer na nga e. Dati sa buong Pilipinas ngayon sa Maynila naman kasi di umubra sa buong Pilipinas.

(Reply to Carol) Sunguard Pamiloza. So, manawagan ka sa lahat ng network ..sabihin mo nagkamali mga manilenyo.. bka sakaling paniwalaan ka..i think bitrrr ka lng

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) REIGN. BOBO KA LANG TALAGA PRE...WALA KA LANG MALASAKIT SA BAYAN MO KYA ANG TINGIN MO SA TAONG MY PRINSIPYO AT PANININDIGAN NA HND DPAT NA HALAL ANG DI KARAPTADAT BITTER ANG TINGIN MO...

(Reply to Carol) haroldaguila. hindi mananalo yankung isinusuka yan.kaya natalo c lolo lim panu wala naman nagawang maganda sa maynila..

(Reply to haroldaguila) Cassandra. walang nagawang maganda?? ospital hindi maganda? ano gusto mo? bar?

(Reply to haroldaguila) ECHO. tama ka harold!!!!!! tanggapin nyo nlang na talo kayo!!!!!! lumipat nlang kayo ng lugar!!!!!! mga bobols

(Reply to haroldaguila) Carol. Sinuka na yan. Nakalimutan mo na yung EDSA 2. Diba di nya natapos yung term nyang pagka presidente?

(Reply to Carol) ECHO. eh anong paki mo kung d ntapos?sukahan kita jan

(Reply to ECHO) Carol. haha. ganyan kayong mga Erap supporters, di marunong makipag usap. Di

natapos kasi pinalayas sya. magsama sama kayo ni Erap sa Manila. Goodluck

(Reply to Carol) Sunguard Pamiloza. Kaw na lng ata naniniwala sa EDSA DOS eh.. pekeng peoples power!!

(Reply to Sunguard Pamiloza) ECHO.
Tammaaaaaa

A comment by user *ricardo* was deleted

(Reply to deleted comment) royvergara. noon pa yon mayroon na...di ka yata taga maynila...

(Reply to reyvergara) ECHO. pakasalan nyo nkang c lim mga diehard

Ken Ravelo. sa senador nmn bakit binuto ung mga walang alam ang bobo talaga ng pinoy

(Reply to Ken Ravelo) ricardo. Tama ka jan marami paring bobong pilipino

(Reply to Ken Ravelo) ConcernedCitizenPh. The result of elections for senators in the Philippines depends primarily on the media exposure and TV advertisements. The result of today's election activities will attest to this. In a way, the sad condition of the country is indirectly the result of the media, particularly those who are involved in news reporting. If media puts little regard for love of country, the news reports will pay little attention to acts of betrayal and the public will not notice such actions. If the media does not notice why the country lags behind its neighbors, it would not report to the public what other countries are doing correctly and what we are not doing correctly causing us to be unaware and remain in this stagnant condition. .. sad but true.

Four polling precincts affected by power interruption in Cavite

Danessa Rivera

(UPDATED 4:00 p.m.) - Heavy rain has affected electricity in at least four polling centers in Cavite province, the Department of Energy (DOE) said on Monday afternoon.

Manila Electric Company (Meralco) spokesperson Joe Zalzarriaga said the cause of power interruption, which started at around 12:10 p.m., in Dasmarinas, Cavite is still being checked.

"It is still being checked as we speak. Kanina kasi may matitinding kidlat na tumama sa Dasmarinas, Cavite, yung system natin overhead susceptible to lightning baka may natamaan. Pero hinahanap na ng Meralco," he said in a briefing in Quezon City.

"As of 1:30 pm, we have two out 714 circuits reportedly still out in Cavite-Dasmarinas area and is being addressed now and we have four still out of 2717 polling centers," he added.

In a post on its Twitter account at 1:10 p.m., the DOE said the affected polling centers are in Dasmariñas in Cavite, even as the Manila Electric Co. is undertaking repairs.

"Power update (in) Dasmariñas, Cavite: the power of four polling centers (was) affected due to heavy rain," the DOE said.

Meralco is undertaking efforts to restore normal power, it added.

However, in another DOE tweet, Assistant Director Irma Exconde said "power remains at normal levels."

Exconde explained that the power outages are not supply-related.

She also said power outages will not affect elections as Comelec also advised that PCOS machines have backup batteries.

From 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Filipinos are expected to troop to voting centers to cast votes for senators, party list groups, and local government officials.

Brownouts in other parts of the country

Brownouts hit parts of Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, and Mindanao on Election Day on Monday as repair crews rushed to complete repair work in affected areas.

Manila Electric Co. (MECO) spokesperson Dina Lomotan cited reports about brownouts in Taguig City in Metro Manila, and in parts of Laguna province.

"Meron kaming incident sa Taguig, nawalan ito bago 8:00 a.m. at naibalik naman," she said in an interview on radio dzBB.

According to GMA reporter Steve Dailisan, the Ricardo Elementary School in Lower Bicutan Taguig City experienced a power interruption after a transformer exploded.

However, voting in Taguig continued despite the brownout because the Precinct Count Optical Scanners (PCOS) machines have 12-hour standby batteries.

“[Ang] aga aga pa umuusok na agad [yung transformer] pero kahit papaano nakakaboto naman,” a voter told Dailisan in an interview on Monday morning.

Zaldarriaga said the brownout in Taguig City Monday morning was caused by load site overloading.

“In Taguig, the power interruption was due to load site trouble sa internal facility sa loob ng school, five 1-horsepower aircon were turned on [and] this caused the overloading of facility around 7:45 a.m. By 10:45 a.m. restored na,” he said in a briefing on Monday.

He noted that Meralco has asked not to bring in additional appliances to avoid any power interruption.

The Makban transmission line that tripped this morning, which caused power outages in Calamba, Laguna, has also been restored immediately, DOE assistant director Irma Exconde said. “What we received is it (line) tripped. On the specific reason, we still have to look at it. It started 8:32 a.m. and went back at 9:46 a.m.,” she said.

Zaldarriaga said the transmission line was the problem in Calamba, Laguna as Meralco was connected to the NGCP facility which tripped.

“NGCP facility yung nag out and connected ang Meralco. Nagtrip yung ngcp transformer so nawalan yung Calamba circuit namin. Transmission yung problem. It's an isolated case at na-energize naman nila kagad,” he said.

Exconde said other areas that experienced power interruption which include Olongapo, the franchise area of Cebeco in Visayas, Aurora-Misamis Occidental in Mindanao, have already been addressed.

“The duration of the power interruptions lasted for about two minutes in Mindanao, about five minutes in Visayas,” she said.

“We cannot categorically state the number [of all power outages]... because once it's already restored, we don't count it anymore. What we monitor are those that are not yet restored,” the DOE official added.

"Normal" situation in Mindanao

Meanwhile, the DOE said the power situation in Mindanao remained normal although there were reports of power interruption.

"Except for (a fallen power post) in Iligan, all others were due to transient faults along distribution lines," it said in a post on Twitter.

An electric post fell in Iligan City in Mindanao. However, this did not affect power in any polling centers in the area, Exconde said.

'Sa Iligan Light franchise area, may natumba na poste, but it did not affect any polling precinct. [Kasalukuyang] inaayos na yung poste...pero hindi namin alam kung gaano katagal maitatayo since poste yun but hopefully soon," she said.

Not a power supply problem

The Energy department was quick to assure the public that the power outages were not supply-related.

“Di natin maiiwasan na magkaroon ng local problems. But it's not a supply problem, it's not a power generation problem. It's normal, yung dynamism of the system,” Exconde said.

As of 1:00 p.m., Luzon has an available capacity of 9,071 megawatts, peak demand of 5,490 MW and power reserve of 3,581 MW.

Visayas has an available capacity of 1,795 MW, peak demand of 1,066 MW, and power reserve of 729 MW.

Mindanao has an available capacity of 1,097 MW, peak demand of 918 MW and power reserve of 169 MW.

“We have a normal system condition for Luzon, for Visayas, and for Mindanao. God is good, demand is low, weather is cooperating. Relatively, mataas yung reserve natin compared to a normal day. Relatively, mas konti pa ngayon [ang power outages] kesa sa other years,” Exconde said.

“Mas on our tayo toes after [what happened on] May 8. We look forward until the end of this day na may election until hanggang may ginagawa pa sa mga polling precincts, magtutuloy tuloy ang normal condition,” she added.

On May 8, six power plants tripped causing a Luzon-wide power outage: the Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo and Ilijan power plants in Batangas, as well as those in Mauban, Quezon and Sual in Pangasinan.

Hotlines

Amid brownouts reported in the provinces on Election Day, the DOE issued hotlines of the National Electrification Administration to call.

In a post on its Twitter account, the DOE said the hotlines are for power concerns in areas served by electric cooperatives.

These include:

- NEA hotline - 09177042259
- North Luzon - 9292040
- South Luzon - 9292243

- Visayas - 9291976
 - Mindanao - 9292219
- **VVP, GMA News**

1 comment

Ritchie Salceda. "Not Supply related" Baka pinaglalaruan ni Jr. yung breaker nyo jan or baka may nagnakaw ng kable ng meralco kaya walang power.....trip trip lang sa panahon ng eleksyon.....

Grace Poe leads strong Team PNoy showing in partial tally

(Updated 9:20 a.m., May 14) Grace Poe is completing a remarkable rise from movie icon's daughter to possible Senate topnotcher, as she captured the number one spot based on 66.93 percent of election returns as of Tuesday morning.

Never rising higher than number three in surveys, Poe is the surprise leader so far, after a steady climb in the polls.

The candidate herself wasn't expecting it. "Akala ko po ay maghiging ako sa 10 hanggang 12 [na posisyon]," Poe was quoted as saying in a live interview on GMA's "24 Oras" as partial results were aired.

"Ang aking makinarya po ay hindi ka kumplikado kaya para sa akin po suntok sa buwan. Ang ayaw ko lang po talaga ay 'wag mapahiya ang pangalan ng tatay ko kaya talagang sinipagan ko po," she said.

Eight other senatorial candidates from the administration's Team PNoy were in the top 12, based on partial and unofficial results shortly after the voting period closed on Monday night.

According to the partial unofficial tally as of 9:06 a.m. Tuesday and with 66.93 percent of the returns, Poe leads the senatorial field with 14,424,177 votes. She is followed by fellow administration bets Loren Legarda (13,177,542 votes), Alan Peter Cayetano (12,479,972 votes), and Francis Escudero (12,479,416 votes).

Legarda was considered the frontrunner throughout the campaign, weathering a media storm over an undeclared New York property days before the election. Three incumbent senators – Legarda, Escudero, and Cayetano – were expected to take the top three spots, before the 44-year-old Poe blindsided them.

With a lead of over a million votes over Legarda, Poe appears to be coasting to victory over much more seasoned politicians. She was certainly aided by a heart-warming campaign ad with her popular mother, actress Susan Roces, and her frequent references to her father the late Fernando Poe Jr., the movie legend who his family says was cheated of the presidency in 2004.

Steady rankings

Nancy Binay in fifth place (11,730,988 votes) is the top-ranking United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) bet. She is followed by Team PNoy's Sonny Angara (11,335,279 votes), Bam Aquino (10,904,736 votes), Koko Pimentel (10,457,336 votes) and Antonio Trillanes IV (10,052,821 votes).

Team PNoy's Cynthia Villar (9,775,163 votes), UNA's JV Ejercito (9,704,884 votes), and UNA's Gregorio Honasan (9,368,907 votes) round out the top 12. While the numbers have been changing, the order has not altered except for Villar and Ejercito switching

places since last night. — **Kimberly Jane Tan and Carmela G. Lapeña/BM/HS/RSJ, GMA News**

103 comments

donmanuel6. My advise kay Sen Elect Grace Poe, ingat ka lang sa mga Binay, tuso ang mga yan! Mukhang harmless at maka masa daw? I doubt!!!! Tatahimik na sa showbiz, natalo c Annabelle Rama! Grace Poe & Noynoy Aquino tandem!!!

angel. Well ganyan na ang trend sa atin even before pa. Kundi man artista, e mga political dynasty. I don't vote her pro andyan na yan let see kung anong magagawa nya sa bayan. Aangat pa yan dahil may mga 22long sa kanya and it's a big challenge for her. Ngayon pa ba kayo mag cocomment comment sa mga taong ito. D nyo pa ba napaapnsin c Lito Lapid sa senate even before?

(Reply to angel) frudo. sama mo pa si bong revilla at nancy binay, kaya wag na magtaka, ganyan na talaga at wala pa rin pagbabago.

Guest. Hooray para kay Senator Chiz Escudero dahil pasok na pasok siya sa top 12!

Guest. Yan si Chiz Escudero, hindi natitinag ng mga tsismis at paninira, panalo pa rin bilang senator! Congrats!

Guest. Congratulations kay Chiz Escudero,napatunayan ulit na may tiwala at mahal siya ng taongbayan kahit anu pang paninira

- **Daffa Elong.** All elected politicians have the same intention in mindpartially serve the public and the rest is to serve themselves



EZbeijing. So,who is the best person to become the next PH president in 2016? Grace Poe, based on 5 reasons,

1.)non-trapo

- 2.)the underdog (Filipinos love underdogs)
- 3.)the weaker sex (but not necessarily weaker in political will)
- 4.)a new face in PH politics
- 5.) to bring justice to her father's failed aspirations in 2004

Kaya Ms. Poe, do your best in the next 3 years in the senate and serve the Filipino people well...Good luck!

(Reply to EZbeijing) Daffa Elong. Keep dreaming it won't cost you money .

(Reply to EZbeijing) 2¢. You missed the most important reason off the list: 6,) She is not Binay.

(Reply to 2¢) EZbeijing. jeje...it is already covered being a non-trapo...but If I could add one more reason, that would be her running for presidency will cause dilemma to both Erap(with Binay) and Pnoy(with Roxas) on whom to support ...

yoly santos. Bumili kase ng milyong milyong boto kaya napasama pa rin sa top 12 si Alan Cayetano

(Reply to yoly santos) android_ultima. Can you substantiate that?

Raul Medina. apat wag palagpasin ng comelec at imbestigahan pa rin si Alan Cayetano dahil sa mga vote-buying niya sa ibat ibang lugar

Guest. Pasok si Chiz sa balota ko. Tiwala ako sa galing at integridad niya

Guest. Kahit hindi #1 si Chiz Escudero sa partial count, #1 pa rin siya sa boto ko

ztfertilizerscam10. Anak ni Panday vs Maligno(kadiliman) for President 2016...

rodella yasa. Good News ! 8 out of 12 ng binoto ko pumasok :) Next tym sana Mapaghandaan ng COMELEC ang election . Mukhang hindi sila prepared sa mga possible problems na Umusbong ! especially sa PCOS . dapat na test na nila bago pa mag election para less hassle sa mga teachers at botante .

(Reply to rodella yasa) mg_harrier. What good news? Dhil b pasok sa top 12 binoto mo? Is ur way of choosing candidates ay ung pagiging winnable at hndi dhil may magagawa s pag asenso ng bansa?and people are asking change but the way they chose leaders doesn't change...tsk tsk tsk

ztfertilizerscam10. Grace Poe for President 2016.....

Daffa Elong. We are on our way to Fourth World

(Reply to Daffa Elong) **frudo**. yes kasi sa sunod na election ay binay for pres nancy binay for vp vs manny pacman for pres and jinky for vp san pa kayo sa Pinas na!!!

(Reply to Daffa Elong) **android_ultima**. Let's teleport. Shall we?

Vino Garza. Poe attended Assumption College San Lorenzo for her secondary education. She took Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies in University of the Philippines Manila (UPM). While in UPM, she got elected as Chairperson of the College Freshman Assembly (1986–1987) and Sophomore Batch Representative to the Student Council (1987–1988). She also has a political science degree from Boston College.[1] During that time, she co-founded the Filipino Cultural Club of Boston College. (Wikipedia)

Jejomar Binay should be very scared now.... Come 2016, Grace Poe for President!

(Reply to Vino Garza) **billy gunner**. Well it doesn't prove anything. Besyds, chachopsueyin lang siya ni binay sa 2016.

Preemptive_Thinking. This only shows that mahina pa rin ang impluwensya ng mga Filipino Netizens sa voting population.

NANINIWALA BA KAYO NA ANG MGA POSTS NINYO SA FACEBOOK AY WALANG EPEKTO SA BOTOHAN?

Either kakaunti pa rin ang nagfefacebook at nagiinternet sa Pilipinas or may vote padding? Karamihan ng mga nangunguna sa surveys sa Internet at Facebook ay wala sa Top. Bakit kaya?

(Reply to Preemptive_Thinking) **android_ultima**. Online polls and surveys are just one of the many ways of determining who's cruising on the top twelve.

(Reply to android_ultima) **Preemptive_Thinking**. **Tama po kayo. :) I'm** also just challenging those Netizens who believe that Internet in our country has immense influence to our countrymen. . . Sadly, hindi pa tayo ganyan at karamihan ng ibang mga Filipino ay hindi pa din nakakahawak ng computer or gadget na may internet connectivity. Yung iba pa nga walang kuryente. Karamihan ng ibang bansa ay lampas na sa **1gbps** ang pinakamababang Internet speed. Tayo sa Pilipinas. . . karamihan ay nasa **1mbps** pa lang ang connectivity. :(

Guest. Proven ineffective ang mga black propaganda nila kay Chiz, No. 3-4 siya sa senatorial race. Wa epek!

Guest. Binoto ko si Chiz para naman may mahusay at matino sa Senado

martin. Hello Grace! don't forget Hello Garci!

(Reply to martin) **android_ultima.** Hmm I sense someone wants to have a “The Empire Strikes Back” effect.

Guest. Alam naman ng tao na nagtatrabaho si Chiz sa Senado, unlike Alan Cayetano na talaga namang puro dada lang ang ginagawa.

Fhara Khito. WeakUp ATE GLO...now you will see how the FILIPINOS votes for FPJ.... Ito'y nagpapakita lamang kung ano talaga an tunay na nangyari ng 2004 election. Sana buhay pa si FPJ kung walang HELO GARCI.....

Guest. I voted for Chiz Escudero because he is an honest and hardworking public servant.

Guest. Chiz ranks 3rd in the senatorial race. Not bad at all.

2¢. Team 'Patay' has done very well. There is no Catholic block vote, and the CBCP is finally proven a spent political force in this country. Now we can all safely ignore them, and the cowardly politicians who were scared to death of them can breathe easier.

(Reply to 2¢) **frudo.** agreed tuloy na ang rh bill yeheyy!!!

disqus_V4cJcKsiie. naku grace, singilin mo c gloria at ilampaso mo si nancy,, may balak kasi yan na maging pres. si vice binay, hay naku dapat si roxas o kaya c loren.

Aiko Ito. Dapat lang manguna dahil may puso para sa masa gaya ng ama. pagpalain ka ng Maykapal, Grace at gabayan ka sa iyong lakbayin para sa inang bansa.

Preemptive_Thinking. Nothing against **Nancy Binay**, pero kilala po ba siya sa Visayas at Mindanao? Para mapunta sa **Top 5**?

Paki-lagay o paki-announce naman po kung saan nanggagaling ang mga boto. Ano po ba ang demographics nito at lugar na pinanggagalingan ng mga boto

Hindi po ba madali lang naman iyan sa PCOS? Dahil computerized na din ang mga voters' list?

MASASABI LANG NAMIN NA MALINIS ANG ELEKSYON KUNG ILALAHAD NINYO SA MAMAMAYANG FILIPINO ANG DETALYE NG MGA BOTO!

Karapatan po namin na malaman iyan!

PANAWAGAN PO ITO NG SAMBAYAN SA COMELEC!

(Reply to Preemptive_Thinking) **EBON.** as Nancy Binay told earlier, "AT THE END OF THE DAY EH HE IS JUST ONE VOTE ONLY"kc pwede nmn dayain yn para ipanalo xa!!!

(Reply to Preemptive_Thinking) **Guest.** Don't fret, there's a manual canvassing...

(Reply to Preemptive_Thinking) **android_ultima**. Her surname is known, hence the vote, even though the name Nancy does not ring a bell.

JD. grace poe for president na yan sa 2016

walangbolahan. mukhang tama ang bintang ni koko na nadaya siya ni zubiri nung 2007. tama lang si koko na pinanindigan niyang hindi makisama kay zubiri sa parehong partido.

(Reply to walangbolahan) **Guest**. mag artista ka na lang sa tv ..migz...ala ka na pag-asa maging senador..mandaraya

Matt Cruz. This reminds us all how Estrada took advantage or used FPJ.

(Reply to Matt Cruz) **android_ultima**. Uh, remind me again how?

(Reply to Matt Cruz) **alona sekiguchi**. how Estrada took advantage or used FPJ? alam mo b cnasabi mo? im not PRO-ERAP but the way i see it, d nmn ganun ginawa nya or ginagawa nya... magkaibgan tlga cla kya nga nung nanalong presidente c erap, andun FPJ to support him.... mahal nila ang isat isa

Guest. nagpaparty ang mga weteng lord ...manila open city na daw sa weteng ulit ..balik si erap hehehehe..g_g_ kau mga taga manila..di pa kau nadala

Ka_Irico. Bad News, Good News. Bad News, natalo si Nancy Binay. Good News, natalo si Annabelle Rama.

(Reply to Ka_Irico) **Fhara Khito**. WeakUp ATE GLO...now you will see how the FILIPINOS votes for FPJ.... Ito'y nagpapakita lamang kung ano talaga an tunay na nangyari ng 2004 election. Sana buhay pa si FPJ kung walang HELO GARCI.....

(Reply to Fhara Khito) **EBON**. ano ibig sabihin ng WEAKUP?

(Reply to EBON) **billy gunner**. Mahina sa taas (aka mahina utak.)

(Reply to Ka_Irico) **Fhara Khito**. Nasaan na yung SOLID vote ng mga INComplete....solid sila sa pang 12,13,14,15 and so on.....

(Reply to Fhara Khito) **android_ultima**. Block voting is not really 100%. No way can the group's leaders peek into their every member's actual vote ballot.

(Reply to android_ultima) **Fhara Khito**. correct.....and we have the right of suffrage/right to vote... whats the use of this if will follow to our leaders...

(Reply to android_ultima) **android_ultima**. I don't agree with block voting because it robs you of your right to choose...

(Reply to android_ultima) **Ericson Gallito.** bitter na naman... di nmn un ang topic mga iho at iha. di nmn namin sinabi na pag binoto ng INC winner na. kung di kayo agree sa bloc voting then dapat irespeto un. pero dapat respetuhin nyo rin ung paniniwala ng iba

(Reply to android_ultima) **android_ultima.** Er, maybe you're a bit out of context here...

(Reply to Ka_Irico) **billy gunner.** It's a strong showing that binay will be the next pres.

(Reply to billy gunner) **2¢.** Not if Grace Poe runs.

Hahahahahah!

(Reply to 2¢) **billy gunner.** Grace poe fr president?????

na

(Reply to 2¢) **EBON.** me pantanggal kb ng kabag jn the ihanda mo

(Reply to 2¢) **2¢.** Why not? Would she be any worse than the losers who have been president this past 30 years? I don't think so. She would certainly be a better option than Binay!

(Reply to 2¢) **billy gunner.** Hahahahahahaha! Bring it on!
Hahahahahaha

(Reply to 2¢) **justjarred.** Chiz and grace for 2016?

(Reply to 2¢) **android_ultima.** (Imitating Darth Vader when he knew Padme died) "NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!"

(Reply to 2¢) **EBON.** mka noooo k nmn the wagas parang ikaw may ari ng pinas

(Reply to 2¢) **android_ultima.** What do you want me to say, "Yes"?

(Reply to 2¢) **Preemptive_Thinking.** (Imitating Buzz Lightyear when Emperor Zurg revealed he is Buzz's father)
"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!"

(Reply to 2¢) **Preemptive_Thinking.** (Imitating Luke Skywalker after Vader revealed he is Luke's father)
"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!"

(Reply to Ka_Irico) **regd.** LOL! Dyuskuday!

gyros. sikat ang mga tatay..nadala ni FPJ si grace..ni jojo binay si nancy...tapos sabihin ni GMA tinalo nya si FPJ eh yung anak pa lang ni FPJ number 1 na!!!!...give them a chance at singilin nyo sila sa mga pangako nila.

(Reply to gyros) Guest. Kaya nag number one si Grace Poe dahil parehong sinuportahan ng UNA at Team Malisya. Even if she belongs to the administration's coalition, she promised Erap to remain loyal that is why Erap had a change of heart and announced his one hundred percent support for Grace. Loren is relegated to number two dahil may epekto yong issue laban sa kanya but not enough to destroy her. Baka sa korte, iba na ang mangyayari. Take it with a grain of salt.

Guest. Labas na kayo sa Pilipinas!!!! tsk tsk

(a comment was deleted)

(Reply to deleted comment) Guest. sip-sip ka

(Reply to deleted comment) Branthel. pwde ba?!.. pag matalo, dinaya na!.. eh hindi nmn xa kilala sa kabisayaan... ok n yun lumusot pa..

Anne Friedrich. wait na lang, kasi mahirap ang humusga, eh di sa susunod at kumakandidato ulit ung mga walang nagawa, eh di hwag iboto..

Anne Friedrich. @ Pidyong magtataka ka pa ba eh ang daming mga tangang botante diyan, pero hwag mawalan ng pag asa baka may gawin naman mabuti si Binay, eh di lagot siya kay Vice Ganda ha ha ha

(Reply to Anne Friedrich) Branthel. kung taga Makati ka you have the rights to complain..hndi mo alam ang ginawa ng mga Binay sa MAKATI.. maghanap k ng City na libre lahat ang gamit sa school sa mga bata, may bigas pa, mula sapaptos hangng lapis libre.. at maraming iba,,kaya swerte mga taga MAKATI kila BINAY kasi 100% ang tulong nila

Anne Friedrich. sana ang mga mananalò, ung talagang karapatdapat, kasi baka lalong maghirap ang Pinas,sana naman ung may gawing mabuti para sa bansa ,lalo na sa mamamayan..bahala na si Mam Miriam diyan ,hwag naman sanang sumakit ulo niya ha ha ha

4u2c. silat na pwesto ni Manong Enrile nito kung nagkataon hehe...9-3 pabor sa Team Pnoy..

pen1111. it could be possible that regions were grace poe is considered strong is the only place so far counted, so we can't take "unofficial" results just yet. we will find out the final soon enough

(Reply to pen1111) CaleeJ. true, its hard to believe grace poe being number 1, I hardly noticed her during the election campaign...

(Reply to CaleeJ) **Branthel.** kung NCR eh number na yan..ano pa kaya sa kabisayaan...lalong number 1 yan..

gerger18. kaya pa ni loren legarda mag number 1 pa! hindi pa naman 50%...

(Reply to gerger18) **mars69.** onga! deserving si loren legarda sa number 1 na senador!

(Reply to mars69) **royal flush.** number 1 man or number 2 pareho lang senador tawag sa kanila

tantan69. kalahati ng votes palang, unofficial pa. hintay natin muna ung totoong resulta....

Pidyong. Alangya nakalusot si nancy ang tatanga naman ng mga pinoy na botante pero buti na lang at wala si jackie sa labindalwang nangunguna unless may gawin milagro

(Reply to Pidyong) **billy gunner.** Bat kya nkpasok si bum?

(Reply to billy gunner) **jomel.** Mas may experience si BAM kesa kay BINAY, tsaka yung Platform (Negosyo at Trabaho) ni BAM eh kapanipaniwala dahil yung ang forte.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bam_Aquino

(Reply to jomel) **billy gunner.** Anong experience yan e prang thesis lang yan a! Lol

(Reply to billy gunner) **jomel.** Bobo basahin mo muna bago ka mamuna..

(Reply to jomel) **billy gunner.** Totoo nmn e. by d way mas bobo ka kasi sumusunod ka sa bobo.

(Reply to billy gunner) **jomel.** Mali ka jan , tinuturuan ko ang mga bobo... kaya eto pinagtyatyagaan kita turuan,,

(Reply to jomel) **billy gunner.** Hus kimi kpa. Bat hndi mo nlv aminin ibinoto mo dalwang bobo: sa palasyo at senado? Lol

(Reply to Pidyong) **winona.** at sino kang di tanga???alam mo ba mga ginawa nila...puro ka kumento, may naitulong ka ba sa bayan???

(Reply to winona) **Branthel.** tama ka, , na nagcomment na yan.. walang makakatumbas sa ginawa ng mga Binay sa Makati..

(Reply to Branthel) **Matt Cruz.** Oo nga.The votes came from the poor and uneducated.That"s why political dynasties, the CBCP, INC, Quiboloy, BOTCHAS (greedy business persons) and BUROKS (corrupt bureaucrats).etc want them to stsy poor anf uneducated, because the latter are the source of their evil powers.

(Reply to Matt Cruz) **Ericson Gallito.** daming mong alam Matt.
bigyan ng jacket!

Ilang PCOS machines, nagkaaberya sa araw ng eleksyon

Ilang oras lamang nakalipas mula nang magsimula ang eleksyon 2013, mga ilang dosena na rin umanong PCOS machine ang naiulat na nasira.

Sa katunayan, kasama umano ang PCOS machine sa presinto ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III ang naiulat na nasira, ngunit gumana na ito nang makarating ang pangulo umaga nitong Lunes. Pumila si Aquino upang bumoto.

Ayon naman sa Comelec, maliit lamang ang bilang ng mga nasirang machine kumpara sa kabuuang bilang ng mga nito. Ayon sa poll body, inaasahan na nila ang pagkasira ng dalawang porsyento o tinatayang 1,560 PCOS machines mula sa kabuuang 78,000 machines.

Gayunpaman, pinaaalalahan ni Comelec spokesman James Jimenez ang mga botante na maaari pa rin silang bumoto kahit sira ang PCOS machine sa kanilang presinto. Ilalagay ito mamaya sa mga gumaganang PCOS machine upang mabilang.

Bago ang eleksyon ngayong araw, marami ang kumuwestiyon sa mga kondisyon ng PCOS machines dahil tatlong taon ding nakatago ang mga ito.

Ito ang parehong machines na nirentahan ng Comelec sa unang automated elections ng bansa noong 2010 at kalaunang binili ng gobyerno noong 2012.

Pagkaantala sa pagboto ang mag-asawang Villar

Samantala, sa Las Piñas, nasa harapan na ng pila sina Senator Manny Villar at ang asawa niyang si Cynthia, na tumatakbo sa pagka-senador, nitong Lunes ng umaga nang masira ang PCOS machine. Nanumbalik ang operasyon nito matapos ayusin ng Comelec technician.

Sa Lubao, Pampanga, naiulat ni GMA reporter Lia Mañalac-del Castillo na nasira ang isang PCOS machine matapos tumanggap ng sampung balota.

Ayon kay Mañalac-del Castillo, itinago na muna ng Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) ang mga hindi tinanggap na balota habang naghihintay ng utos mula sa kanilang executive officer. Sa ngayon, sinusubukan pa ng BEI na mapalitan ang mga machine sa Lubao.

Samantala, nag-malfunction naman ang PCOS machine sa Sorsogon at kinailangang paulit-ulit na subukan upang maka-online, ayon sa hiwalay na ulat ni GMA TV reporter Sherie Ann Torres.

Ibang mga insidente

Samantala, ayon naman sa ulat ni Glen Juego sa radio dzBB, may ilang mga botante ang nagreklamo matapos hindi mahanap ang kanilang mga pangalan sa listahan ng isang polling area sa Marikina City.

Bago naman magsimula ang eleksyon nitong umaga, iniulat ni GMA senior reporter Jiggy Manicad na apat hanggang limang pagsabog ang narinig mula nitong Linggo ng gabi malapit sa isang checkpoint sa labas ng Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, isang election hotspot.

Kinokonsiderang election hotspot ang Maguindanao kung saan kadalasang may kaguluhan tuwing eleksyon. Ito rin ang lugar kung saan 58 katao, kabilang na ang 32 tauhan ng media, ang namasaker noong 2009 kaugnay ang eleksyon. — **Amanda Fernandez /LBG, GMA News**

1 comment

ISRAELIT3S. They need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo...

Ilang showbiz personalities, nangunguna sa unofficial count ng Comelec

Ilang showbiz personalities na tumakbo ngayong halalan ang nangunguna sa partial at unofficial count ng Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Sa Quezon City, malaki ang kalamangan ni re-electionist Mayor Herbert Bautista sa kanyang mga katunggali.

Nakatanggap si Bautista ng 191,101 boto kontra sa 19,270 boto ng malayong pumapangalawa na si Johnny Chang. Ito ay batay sa 22.13% ng Nationwide Election Returns.

Malaki rin ang kalamangan ni re-electionist Batangas governor Vilma Santos-Recto sa pumapangalawang si Marcos Mandanas.

Batay sa 34.82% ng Batangas Election Returns, nakakuha na si Gov. Vilma ng 295,255 boto, kontra sa 18,781 boto ni Mandanas.

Lumalamang din sa labanan sa pagka-gobernador ng Laguna si re-electionist Gov. George "ER" Ejercito.

Batay sa 25.87% ng Laguna Election Returns, mayroon ng 140,613 boto si ER laban sa 126,759 boto ni San Luis.

Sa pagka-kongresista sa ikalimang distrito ng Quezon City, nakakuha ng 18,083 boto si Alfred Vargas, kontra sa pumapangalawang si Annie Rosa Susano na may 6,669 boto. Ito ay batay sa 22.13% ng NCR Election Returns.

Bahagyang nakalalamang din ang aktor na si Aga Muhlach sa labanan ng pagka-kongresista sa ika-apat na distrito ng Camarines Sur.

Batay sa 30.5% ng Election Returns, nakakuha si Aga ng 21,296 boto laban sa 18,357 boto ni Wimpy Fuentabella.

Samantala sa labanan sa Maynila, batay sa 80% NCR Election Returns, nakalalamang si dating pangulong Joseph Estrada laban kay incumbent mayor Alfredo Lim.

Mayroong 163,018 boto si Erap, kontra sa 150,434 boto ni Lim.

Lamang din ang running-mate ni Erap sa pagka-bise alkalde na si Isko Moreno (Damagoso), na may 186,633 boto, laban sa 115,933 boto ng kapwa aktor na si Lou Veloso na katambal naman ni Lim.

Sa lalawigan ng Bulacan, nagtala rin ng napakalaking kalamangan ang aktor at re-electionist vice governor na si Daniel Fernando.

Batay sa 40.11% ng Bulacan election returns, nakakuha na si Daniel ng 366,166 boto laban sa sumusunod sa kanyang kandidato na si Josie Lopez.

Ang mga nasabing boto ay pawang partial at unofficial pa lamang. -- **Mac Macapendeg/FRJ, GMA News**

9 comments

Jhun Ko. Meron palang UNOFFICIAL count ang COMELEC? Nakatanggap si Bautista ng 191,101 boto kontra sa 19,270 boto ng malayong pumapangalawa na si Johnny Chang. Ito ay batay sa 22.13% ng Nationwide Election Returns. Bakit naging nation wide na ba ang bilangan sa Quezon city? Hay naku.. Ayusin naman kasi pag nag susulat ng balita...

Ztefertilizerscam10. SI Annabelle (BUGAW) Rama talunan....

(Reply to ztefertilizerscam10) **Gerry Almonte.** tamalang pa-epal lang nman yan...buti di nadeclare na nuisance candidate yan..nu ba alam nyan sa politics..sa showbiz nga panggulo lang sya...

Julio Koh-teng. Batay sa 40.11% ng Bulacan election returns, nakakuha na si Daniel ng 3,66,166 boto laban sa sumusunod sa kanyang kandidato na si Josie Lopez. this whole sentence was vague!

(Reply to Julio Koh-teng) **BOSSING.** @ Julio ito ba yun tinutukoy mo? "Batay sa 40.11% ng Bulacan election returns, nakakuha na si Daniel ng 366,166 boto laban sa sumusunod sa kanyang kandidato na si Josie Lopez." Tama ang pagkakasulat! Pki check mo nga ang mga mata mo!

(Reply to BOSSING) **Kash.** kay nahangahang udog... perfect lang teh? – re:@Julio

Julio Koh-teng. please proof read.. ung numbers nyo ay mali...3,66,166 ano million na ba to? tagalog na nga lang e di pa maproof read ng mabuti!

(Reply to Julio Koh-teng) **Socrates Platotle.** Mainit ba ulo mo dahil nanalo si Binay? Hehehhe:D

(Reply to Julio Koh-teng) **disqus_SixWwteL8F.** sensys na nagkamali lang mr perfecto!

Leni Robredo widens lead in CamSur congressional race

(Updated 11:44 p.m.) Lawyer Leni Robredo, widow of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, is leading in the congressional race in the third district of Camarines Sur province, GMA News' partial unofficial results showed Monday.

Based on GMA News partial and unofficial results as of 11:08 p.m., Robredo was leading by a huge margin:

(Liberal Party) ROBREDO, LENI 80,007

(Nationalist People's Coalition) VILLAFUERTE, NELLY 22,813

(Independent) FAUSTO, CHARINA 1,369

(Partido Demokratiko Pilipino - Lakas ng Bayan) ARCILLA, OSCAR JR. 353

The numbers, representing 41.75 percent of Camarines Sur's election returns (ERs), are subject to change. Only the official board of canvassers can officially declare a winning candidate.

In October last year, Robredo finally agreed to run for congresswoman after prodding by the Liberal Party.

She ran against Nationalist People's Coalition's Nelly Villafuerte, wife of incumbent Rep. Luis Villafuerte Sr., who has served the province since 1978 and who is Jesse Robredo's uncle.

Villafuerte helped Jesse Robredo enter politics and win as mayor of Naga in 1988, but the two soon parted ways and became political rivals.

Villafuerte stronghold

The Villafuertes have held key local positions in Camarines Sur since the late 1970s.

Villafuerte Sr. is running against his grandson, 24-year-old Miguel ("Migz" or "LRay Jr."), the son of incumbent Gov. LRay Villafuerte.

The incumbent Camarines Sur governor and Villarfuerte Sr. have had a falling-out over proposals to partition the province into two.

The younger Villafuerte is leading the race for the gubernatorial seat, according to GMA News' partial unofficial results below:

(Nacionalista Party) VILLAFUERTE, LRAY JR-MIGZ – 116,039

(NPC) VILLAFUERTE, LUIS – 90,810

(LP) CADIZ, JOEL – 70,689

(Kilusang Bagong Lipunan) PELO, JOEL – 2,202

(Independent) ILIW ILIW, YAM – 804

Meanwhile, incumbent Camarines Sur governor LRay (NP) is trailing Dato Arroyo (Lakas ng Tao-Christian Muslim Democrats) in a tight race for a congressional seat in the province's second district.

Dato – the youngest son of former First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and former President of the Philippines and current congresswoman from second district of Pampanga Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo brood – has 36,013 votes while LRay has 30,170.

LP's bet for Camarines Sur's second district representative Abang Mabulo has 4,618 votes.

NP's Ato Peña appears to have clinched the Vice Governor post of Camarines Sur with 150,074 votes, nearly double the closest candidate, NPC's Gil Basmayor with 85,081.

Independent Vice Governor candidate Manny Morano got 5,544 as of posting time.

For the rest of Camarines Sur's partial results, click here. — **KBK/BM, GMA News**

19 comments

pabloo6293. Buti naman mangatalo na lahat ang mga trapong ito para magkaroon naman ng pag-asang umunlad ang CamSur. Kung may magagawa sila, dapat noon pa sana nagawa dahil ang tagal na nila sa kapangyarihan.

unleadedzeppelin. Cam Sur people are showing the way against political dynasties and bad politics. Hats Off!

- **Daffa Elong.**



Carlos Caloy Prieto. It looks like some Camarines Sur residents have finally seen the light! Leni Robredo eliminated Nelly V. and even if I didn't like GMA, her son Dato might send LRay to Caramoan for a long vacation. However, I still don't understand how a grandson can run against his own grandfather. What a family!

tolits63. yung lolo at apo ano na score

Mr. Philosopho. leni robredo! for future president !

(Reply to Mr. Philosopho) **tolits63.** Future first lady kamo..

(Reply to tolits63) **justjarred.** Byuda na si mrs. Robredo e. pano magiging First Lady?

(Reply to justjarred) **NOSYAJ.** pwede naman sila ni pinoy di ba?

(Reply to justjarred) **justjarred.** Hindi na pede si Pnoy as prez ulit.

Guest. Mabuhay ka Leni Robredo ...a new breed of politics is coming our way ... wala na ang trapo !!

edmarker. wow congrats lani.....

GintongLahi. God Bless Leni Robredo. The trend shows she is a sure winner.

Anne Friedrich. mabuhay si Mam Leni Robredo,

echoserangfroggy. Sa sobrang kagahaman na yan ng mga villafuerte sa pera at pulitika

budji3. Lray Villafuerte should have picked a different Congressional district, District 2 was never and still not traditionally a Villafuerte stronghold. Even Dato Arroyo is not from that place, people have warmed to his presence, dai hambog. Big mistake, LRay!

(Reply to budji3) **iriga1_city1_boy1.** To budji t: Big mistake for LRay? Good,so 1 less Villafuerte,1 "baby step" forward for Camarines Sur.And1 branch of a dynasty tree falling to the ground.Hope the results stay.

iriga1_city1_boy1. If Robredo wins this,the armor of invincibility of the Dynastic Villafuertes got partially stopped on it's tracks of perpetuity.Though i'm no fan of a Macapagal,it's better to have him than another Villafuerte .And if Muhlach wins,it's a bit better than the overstaying Fuentebellas of Partido section of the province.People in Camarines Sur need to take care and own their province.The future of their children are at stake here.Possible that another Villafuerte might win this Gubernatorial race,but the people need to speak up and fiscalize starting day one if any elected official does not do his job properly.

ernievictory. mabuhay si leni robredo !

Marawi precinct reverts to manual polls due to PCOS glitches

One precinct in Marawi City in the province of Lanao del Sur was forced to revert to manual voting after the two Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines there failed to work, a television report said Monday.

In a report aired over GMA's "24 Oras," reporter Jun Veneracion said one of the PCOS machines did not function at all while the other had problems with its LCD.

Because of this, the board of election inspectors (BEI) was forced to make voters shade their ballots and leave it with them, which would just be fed to another PCOS machine after voting has ended.

Veneracion quoted an election supervisor as saying they are hastening the delivery of the new PCOS machines.

He said the PCOS problem caused the line outside the precinct to get longer, although senior citizens were given priority since many of them suffered from headaches and high blood pressure.

On the other hand, Veneracion said police personnel served as BEIs in Butig municipality in place of the teachers who feared for their safety. — **Kimberly Jane Tan/KBK, GMA News**

3 comments

Mister Mischievous. mali ung headline! please consider ung sinabi ni sixto brillantes.

wardman. Tama naman.. Manual voting parin pero automated counting na.. Of all places talagang sa Marawi pa nagkaron ng gantong problema.. hmmm

FOX. GMA7, kindly heed what chairman brillantes said earlier, WE HAVE MANUAL VOTING po, counting is the one which is automated. May punto naman yung matanda kahit puti na ang buhok.

(Reply to FOX) siera veda. korak. manual pa rin nmn tlg. pati nga ung pangamba nila hacking di pede mangyari, dahil stand alone ung mga PCOS. ang pede switching nga Flash card Memory. hehehehe

Namfrel reports switched ballots, defective PCOS machines

Just a few hours after voting started Monday, Election Day, reports of switched ballots and vote-counting machines that were either missing or malfunctioning have reached a citizens' arm group of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) council member Dammy Magbual told GMA News Online that they have received reports of malfunctioning Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines at a precinct in Daraga, Albay.

Also, no PCOS machines have been delivered to Sumisip, Basilan, in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), he added in a phone interview.

"Another fatal blow in the logistics of Comelec is... some ballots in Antique were shipped to Romblon," he said, adding the ballots were sent to a public elementary school in Odiongan, Romblon.

"If you sent the ballots to Romblon intended for Antique then you are disenfranchising practically the voters there," Magbual noted.

Namfrel has yet to issue a complete list on election glitches reported on Election Day.

GMA News Online was still trying to reach another citizens' arm, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), for updates on the conduct of elections as of posting time.

Cesar Flores, president of PCOS supplier Smartmatic Asia, said he expects around 200 to 300 PCOS machines that need replacing on Election Day. Some 78,000 machines were distributed around 40,000 locations nationwide for the elections.

The country is having its second automated national elections on Monday. Voting started on 7 a.m. and will last until 7 p.m. — **Marc Jayson Cayabyab/KBK, GMA News**

1 comment

alberto tanlimco. Report from Laguna, a lot of known supporters of challenging candidates against incumbents were disenfranchised by missing out their names from the final voter's list while they have voted in the last two elections.

Packed like sardines, voters struggle at QC polling center



QC voters endure 'discomfort' just to cast votes. Voters push and shove each other as they overcrowd a corridor leading to a polling precinct at the Corazon Aquino Elementary School in Quezon City on Monday, May 13. **Asti Flores**

Arriving in the first hour of voting on Monday didn't guarantee early birds of smooth voting, as they found themselves stuck in long and slow moving lines.

At the President Corazon Aquino Elementary School in Batasan Hills, Quezon City, the crowd was so thick that one 66-year-old woman fell and was unable to make her way to her precinct even with help from her 13-year-old companion.

Unlike in other polling precincts, there were no express lanes for senior citizens at the said school as of Monday morning, according to GMA News' Joseph Morong, who helped the woman.

Morong said it was no easy feat to reach the woman's precinct, and they had to request permission to pass through another precinct because there were too many people in the hallways of the school.

(video insert)

Despite the challenging crowd, the grandmother, who was not identified in the report, insisted on voting, as she had never missed an election.

Other senior citizens were unable to vote, as they could not join the crowd, which was packed like sardines from the first to fourth floor.

According to the report, voters were not used to the tight space, as they used to be assigned to the nearby and much larger high school building.

With over 31,000 registered voters and only 33 PCOS machines, an average of 900 to 1,000 voters were assigned to every clustered precinct, the report said.

Long lines

Another problem was the lack of clear entrances and exits, Morong noted. Some voters stayed outside the school as they waited for the crowd to thin.

Voters were advised to bring plenty of water to avoid dehydration while lining up.

The lines got longer later in the day, with several incidents of voters shoving each other and cutting in line. On the other hand, there were also inspiring stories.

Seventy-year-old Magdalena Datono was among the thousands of voters at the school who arrived despite her disability of having only one leg. Using a plastic stool with a thin cloth as cushioning, Datono fell in line with the rest of the voters. According to the report, she never missed an election, as television reports would always remind her of her responsibility to vote.

Other voters who saw her situation volunteered to carry her to the second floor, where she was allowed to vote ahead of others despite their having been there for hours.

"Para makinabang sila sa akin, ako makinabang din sa kanila," a smiling Datono said when asked why she continues to vote.

Other inspiring stories of PWD (persons with disabilities) voters included an armless voter in Cagayan, and a Makati voter who arrived at his precinct on board a skateboard, his main form of transport after losing both his legs.

Last year, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued Resolution No. 9485 to make voting easier for PWDs. As of June 2012, Comelec said there were at least 24,573 PWDs who registered and updated their records.

The figure would only be six percent of the estimated 400,000 Filipino PWDs are eligible to vote, according to Fully Abled Nation, a Disability-Inclusive Elections initiative. — **Carmela G. Lapeña/KBK, GMA News**

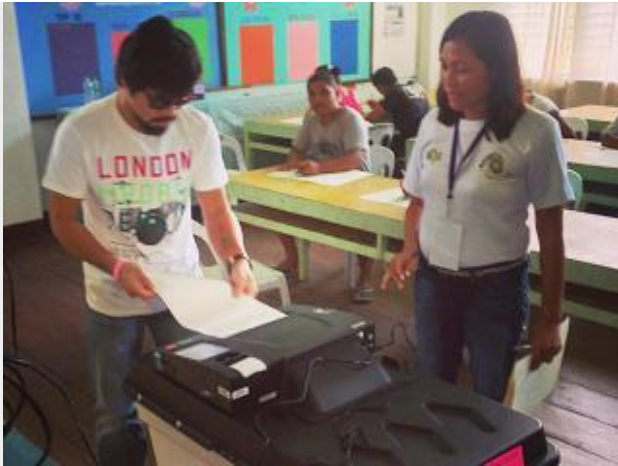
2 comments

ISRAELIT3S. They (Comelec) need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo.

John Spencer. WOW

Pacquiao couple cruising in Sarangani polls

Renee Fopalan



Pacman casts his vote in Sarangani. Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao casts his vote at Kiamba Central Elementary School for Eleksyon 2013. Pacquiao is running for reelection unopposed. **Mark Zambrano, GMA News**

With 34.97 percent of the official election returns in as of 11:08pm, incumbent congressman Manny Pacquiao has amassed a total of 53,458 votes, running unopposed in the lone legislative district of Sarangani province.

Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, is also enjoying a comfortable lead against her competitors in the provincial vice-gubernatorial race. Mrs. Pacquiao has so far gotten 47,636 votes.

A far second is the Liberal Party's Eleanor Saguiguit with 11,643, while independent candidate Jose Elorde Villamor has 2,550. — **ELR, GMA News**

32 comments

Daffa Elong. ... Avoid political dynasty Sarangani people !!!!! don't let it happen ... select a representative with brain not muscleenough of this aspiring TV game host turned preacher , he's unreliable and inefficienthe holds the record of most solid ABSentee in congress ...

(Reply) jap. yeah boto niyo ung matalino, matalino mangurakot lol... kelangan mo lang ang idea ano ang kelangan ng mga nasasakopan mo at gumawa ng batas para maisulong ito.. edi sana noon pa man hindi na nila pinapayagang tumako ang mga taong hindi lawyer sa congreso, i bet meron ding accountant, engr, atb, na nasa cogresso ngayon anong pag kakaiba nila kay pacman? mas alam nila ang batas? pero mas alam ba nila ang pangangailangan ng nasasakupan nila?. alam ba nila ang dapat gawin sa mga mahihirap alam ba nila ang tunay na pangangaylangn ng mga mahihirap kong hindi p nmn nila nararanasan, aanhin ang napaka maunlad na bayan kong iilan ilan lang nmn ang nakikinabang, at naka punta ka na ba ng sarangani? noon at ngayon? compare mo? ikaw ba ano ng nagawa mo sa bayan?

(Reply to Daffa Elong) kareen. being absent doesn't mean he is incompetent. Mas pipiliin mo pa ba ang mambabatas na laging present pero wala namang concrete na nagawa sa term nila? Hirap sa inyo, puro kayo puna ng masama. Manny is better off than the people who formerly ran Sarangani.

(Reply to kareen) Fhara Khito. See the pix how MP did in congress....wearing BARONG TAGALOG setting down there shaking his 2 legs to make his bools bigger and bigger and bigger...

(Reply to Fhara Khito) kareen. that doesn't mean he was not paying attention to what was the issue discussed at hand. A picture paints a thousand words, so does the gestures which may mean a thousand things.

(Reply to kareen) Fhara Khito. Congressman is a LAW maker not a project proponent or implementor..Manny is not capable as LAW MAKER, he was only an HS graduate...If he want to help people in his place...Barangay captain to Gov. is enough for him....

(Reply to Fhara Khito) kareen. I am aware that Congressmen are lawmakers.But didn't it occur to you that the reason why they are given PDAF in millions of pesos is because they should allocate it for useful projects for their constituents?Limiting the function of congressmen to lawmaking is illogical if they are receiving millions in pork barrel.Also,you don't need to be a college grad to be able to draft and pass SUBSTANTIVE law.You only need common sense, sense of awareness, and sincerity to help and serve.And in fact,the law does not require one to be a college grad to become an elected official.You only need to have the ability to read, write, and count. Did you know that?

(Reply to Fhara Khito) jap. isa ka mang abogado o doctor, wala kang karapatang maliitin ang taong hindi nakapag tapos, isa lang yang katunayan na mas mababa ka pa sa kanila despite ng pinag aralan mo, however, you are entitled to say or write whatever you want. and for the record its A hs graduate, as A LAW MAKER, if he want\$. get it right next time PLEASE .it seems like everything youve just said here just bounced back to you. and another one comment mo sa baba its SEATING DOWN and balls.

Liz. Di ako Taga sanrangani pero sa usap ung Ganyan akoy makikilahok sa inyo mga kuro-kuro. I do believe na Marami Naman nagawa si manny bilang congressman sa inyong bayan, Wala rin balitang nangurakot sa pera ng bayan. Mas Maganda nga na sya ang mahalal Dahil di na Nya iisipin mangurakot pa sa pera ng sambayanan. Kung walang masyadong experience napangaaralan Naman yan, lahat Naman ng mga unang tumatakbo sa ibat ibang posses yon

(Reply to Liz) vokkin. Sige nga, magbanggit ka ng kahit isang nagawa ni Manny bilang congressman?

(Reply to vokkin) kareen. TERTIARY PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF SARANGANI. Siya lang ang hinintay ng mga Sarangan to provide them with this very basic need.

(Reply to kareen) vokkin. Alam mo ba ang ibig sabihin ng "bilang congressman"? Kailangan bang maging congressman para magpatayo ng ospital?

(Reply to vokkin) kareen. hey dude, he is the proponent of this ACT. Magresearch ka ha para may bases ang mga komento mo. AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TERTIARY PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF SARANGANI TO BE KNOWN AS THE SARANGANI PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
Principal Author: PACQUIAO, EMMANUEL.

(Reply to kareen) vokkin. Mabuti naman kung ganon. Isa pa nga, marami daw eh :)

(Reply to vokkin) kareen. Magresearch ka na lang..

Vahl Francisca Capistrano. KALOOY SA SARANGGANI, wala pay kwarta si jinky pislal gihapon. ra gihapon.

(Reply to Vahl Francisca Capistrano) jane. Bitter?!? I viewed ur profile pic & hello di matangos ilong mo ne. & ur face? Ahmm, wag na lang ayaw ko magkasala.. :) Well, all i can say is that Jingkee & manny ang mas may karapatan na maluklok sa pwesto. With their billions, di na nila kailangan mangurakot. They have also the willingness to help their contituents & above all they have a strong faith with God who is the source of everything. So instead of sourgraping, why not be a good citizen? just pray for them nalang na maging successful sila sa field na pinasok nila. :)

alfredobatongbakal. Di makuntento sa kung anong meron siya. Bilyun bilyon na ang pera at marami nang karangalang natamo pero naghahangad pa ng kapangyarihan. Bakit di ba siya pwedeng tumulong sa mga tao kung di siya maging opisyal ng gobyerno? Sa 2016 huwag na kayo mahiya, patakbuhan mo na din si Dionisia sa senado.

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) Hacker. Walang masama sa komento mo. Pero ang sinasabi ko lang bago ka magkomento, suriin mo munang mabuti kung nakakatulong ba o hindi ang pagiging politiko nya sa nasasakupan nya. IKUMPARA MO ANG NAGAWA NG MGA DATING PULITIKO SA LUGAR NYA AT YUNG MGA NAGAWA NYA.

Kailangan yan para tumama ang sinasabi mo.

Pwedeng pwede tumulong ang isang tao kahit wala sa gobyerno. Ang importante lang ay yung hindi kurakot na opisyal. Dahil kapag nagkataon, yung budget na nakalaan sa lugar nya ay mawawala hehe tapos papasok sa balsa.

Sa tingin ko, mas marami ang maitutulong ni Pacquiao kung nasa opisyal sya dahil dalawa ang source na pwede nya pagkunan. Yung pera nya at pera na galing sa gobyerno.

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) **jane.** Puede! Pero masama bang maging politician @ tumulong at the same time? If he has capabilities na maging politician then why not? Right?

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) **NOSYAJ.** Matulungin nman mga yan, wla nman cguro problema kng nanalo silang dalawa

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) **Liz.** Mas Maganda Naman na sya tumakbo bilang congressman, Marami na sya pera di na Nya iisipin pa na mangurakot, kasya iba ang tumakbo pero iniisip Kung pano pupunuin ang kanyang Kaban, na Galing sa Kaban ng kanyang bayan paglilingkuran...

(Reply to Liz) **NOSYAJ.** tama..

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) **seloso70.** Marumi lang yan utak mo, bakit hinde mo tingnan yung mga nagawa ni pacman na kabutihan at yung mga naitulong nya sa mga tao dapat ikarangal mo na mayroon tayong isang tao na katulad nya.

(Reply to seloso70) **Liz.** dapat nga matuwa kayo Dahil sya marami ng pera, di na Nya iisipin pang mangurakot ba sa Kaban ng lipunan... Kung ang tatakbo eh habol Lang magpayaman sa pera ng Galing sa inyong bulsa na rin. Congressman na sya sa

(Reply to Liz) **mapanuri.** ang mambabatas, responsibilidad niyang mag-attend ng sessions at gumawa ng batas. ilang beses ba siyang absent, ilang araw lang ang ipinasok? kung priority ang boxing, hindi na dapat siya tumakbo.

(Reply to Liz) **kareen.** Sa dami ng ginawa ni pacquiao during his 1st term, he has surpassed the performance of the former reigning political dynasty in Sarangani. He was able to alleviate the condition of the people in his AOR. If that is not enough for you, ewan ko na lang sa inyo. Manny may not be that educated and intelligent, but he is a statesman - which is what we need from our officials - sense of responsibility and a heart for the needy.

(Reply to alfredobatongbakal) **winona.** di kaya inggit lang yan, kaya nasasabi mo?

(Reply to winona) **Vahl Francisca Capistrano.** GREED ANG TAWAG DIYAN sa mga taong ganyan,

kentjohn. talo yta kpatid nya c ruel ky acharon

Tranqs Lurker. iba talaga ang mapera

Twister12. Idiots can be smart too.

Pampanga election official accused of pre-shading ballots in Guagua

Marc Jayson Cayabyab

A member of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) has been accused of distributing pre-shaded ballots at a clustered polling center in Guagua, Pampanga.

Maria Victoria Dulcero, assistant director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Education and Information Department, said the report came from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting-National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections secretariat Fr. Kenneth Alde.

Comelec has yet to identify the election inspector, she added.

A certain Elsa Bondoc reported the incident to Fr. Alde, said Dulcero.

The pre-shaded ballots covered the barangays of San Miguel Betis, San Juan Nepo and San Juan Bautista. They were shaded in favor of gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda, vice-gubernatorial bet Dennis Pineda and Guagua mayorial bet Ric Rivera.

"This constitutes election offense," said Dulcero. — BM, GMA News

1 comment

okpasau. BEI chairman and members are liable for the entire voting process... dapat imbestigahan sila at wag pakakawalan pag napatunayan! once na may nakita silang irregularities bakit tinuloy pa nila pag distribute ng pre-shaded ballots? harap harapan na panloloko?

PCOS machine glitches reported early on election day

[Andrei Medina](#)

(Updated 11:30 a.m.) Barely two hours into the 2013 elections, dozens of reports of PCOS machine glitches already came in from across the country.

Even the Tarlac precinct where President Noynoy Aquino was to vote had a PCOS machine that jammed, but was functioning by the time the president arrived at midmorning. Aquino noticeably lined up to vote.

Comelec said the malfunctioning machines are just a tiny fraction of the total. The poll agency is expecting about two percent of the estimated 78,000 PCOS machines to malfunction, or about 1,560 machines.

But Comelec spokesman James Jimenez reminded voters that they can still vote despite a busted PCOS machine in their precinct. The ballots would later be fed into a working PCOS machine to be counted.

During the election preparations, many raised concerns about the condition of the machines after three years of storage. They are the same machines that the Comelec rented for the nation's first automated elections in 2010 and which the government purchased in 2012.

Voting by Villars delayed by PCOS malfunction

In Las Piñas, the Villar couple – Senator Manny Villar and his wife Cynthia who is running for senator – were at the head of the voting line at their precinct Monday morning when the PCOS machine also jammed, delaying the movement of the line for a few minutes. It functioned again after being reset by a Comelec technician.

In Lubao, Pampanga, GMA reporter Lia Mañalac-del Castillo reported at least one PCOS machine that jammed up after only ten voters put in their ballots (Twitter insert):

[Lia M. Del Castillo @LiaManalac](#)

Ballots are not being received by this PCOS machine in precinct 77, Sta. Cruz Elementary School, Lubao#Eleksyon2013 pic.twitter.com/SMXXbtR78r

[8:34 AM - 13 May 2013](#)



- [Reply](#)
- [Retweet](#)

Mañalac-del Castillo said that the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) was setting aside the rejected ballots until further instructions from their executive officer. As of posting time, the BEI in Lubao were still working to have the machine replaced.

Meanwhile, another PCOS machine in Sorsogon malfunctioned and took several tries to get online, according to GMA TV Reporter Sherie Ann Torres (two Twitter inserts):

[sherrie ann torres @sherieanntorres](#)

PCOS machine in Sorsogon City's precinct 79A cant read memory card. BEIs trying to open for the 5th time @gmanews pic.twitter.com/2wXOzCiFr

[7:10 AM - 13 May 2013](#)



[sherrie ann torres @sherieanntorres](#)

Aftr 35 mins & many attempts of accessing,PCOS machine n precinct 79A of 1st district Sorsogon finally works @gmanews pic.twitter.com/ha6VHUnWz0

[7:35 AM - 13 May 2013](#)



GMA News' Steve Dailisan also reported similar glitches in Taguig, Manila (Twitter insert):

[Steeeeeve F Dailisan @stevefdailisan](#)

PCOS Machine sa sta. teresa elementary school sa Taguig ayaw sira. Mga botanteng maagang dumating di... <http://instagram.com/p/ZOtrVAS8jX/>

[7:21 AM - 13 May 2013](#)

Other incidents

Meanwhile, Radio DZBB's Glen Juego reported an uproar in the polling area of Marikina City after some voters were unable to find their names in the voter's list.

Even before the elections began this morning, GMA senior reporter Jiggy Manicad reported that at least four to five explosions were heard since Sunday night near a checkpoint outside Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, an election hotspot.

Maguindanao has long been considered an election hotspot where violence is a regular occurrence during polling season. The area is most notoriously remembered as the place where 58 people, including 32 mediamen, were massacred in 2009 in one of the worst cases of election-related violence ever in world history. — **TJD/HS, GMA News**

4 comments

Guest. 3 years na naka idle...pag nag moisture yan...o kaya inamag mga ibag part..fail na yan...maski iba electronic machines ...even if they are kept under certain temperature or moisture control will not function well..3 years ba naman naka tenga

rainman. bakit laging PCOS failure ang laman ng news? ilang percentage ba ang may problema??? I believe wala namang 1percent.... bakit walang news na maganda??? lahat negative... bawal ba magbalita ng good news about election???

carlaid. The polling areas are crowded, hot and humid. The lines are long, with very little elbow room to spare. This gives a whole new meaning to "daang matuwid".

(Reply to carlaid) repusgobil. I am not pro-administration, but your referenced to "daang matuwid" in connection with the crowded polling places and the weather is too obvious of your political color. Are you not aware that Comelec is a constitutional body, independent from the executive branch of the government?

PNoy faces political test as Filipinos vote in midterm polls

[Kimberly Jane Tan and Andreo Calonzo](#)



Early crowd at Parañaque Elementary School for Eleksyon 2013. Voters flock to Parañaque Elementary School an hour before polls open to look for their names on the official list of voters. Millions of Filipinos nationwide will exercise their right to vote starting 7 a.m. on Monday. **Jayson Bondoc, GMA News**

(Updated 2:28 p.m.) - Millions of Filipino voters started trooping to precincts early Monday to elect senators, congressional representatives, and local officials in this year's midterm polls that have been seen as a referendum on President Aquino's reform agenda and a political barometer for the 2016 presidential elections.

More than 52 million registered Filipino voters are set to elect 12 senators, 57 party-list representatives, 229 district representatives and 17,724 local officials in the Philippines' second automated national elections, which have been marred by violence and charges of rampant vote-buying.

The country's top two leaders, despite their generally harmonious working relations, have vigorously campaigned for opposing senatorial slates: President Aquino for the Team PNoy administration coalition that includes the Liberal Party, the National People's Coalition, and the Nacionalista Party against Vice President Jejomar Binay's United Nationalist Alliance (UNA).

The latest survey from pollster Social Weather Stations (SWS) shows that "the most probable final Team PNoy-UNA score is 9-3" with many veteran legislators favored by Aquino topping the list. But the Vice President's eldest daughter, neophyte Nancy Binay, has also made a surprisingly strong showing despite lack of political credentials.

"Si Binay, matagal na niyang sinabing tatakbo siya bilang Presidente sa 2016. 'Yung pagkampanya niya sa UNA, parang kampanya na rin niya sa sarili niya. He is out to

prove na mas popular siya kay PNoy,” said political analyst Benito Lim from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU).

“The results of the elections will definitely be a preview of 2016,” Lim told GMA News Online in a phone interview on Sunday.

Another analyst, Ramon Casiple, said most of President Aquino’s choices appear to be well-positioned for victory in the polls. “Mukhang makukuha niya ang gusto niya, 'yung 9-3,” Casiple said.

“Double-edged sword 'yan... kung masama ang Presidente, lagot tayong lahat pero kung mabuti 'yung presidente [there will be a] quicker passing of reform laws,” he said.

The leading administration candidates include Senators Loren Legarda, Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Escudero, and Koko Pimentel; former Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar; and newcomers Grace Poe and Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV.

On the opposition bench, Binay and San Juan Rep. JV Ejercito are within comfortable margins to win a seat in the Senate, according to most surveys.

The last three seats could be contested by an equal number from both sides: administration bets Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, and former Sen. Jun Magsaysay; and the opposition’s Senator Gregorio Honasan, Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile, and former Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Based on the track record of pollsters SWS and Pulse Asia, Casiple said it is likely that the survey rankings will hold true on election day.

'An election of senators'

However, Casiple added that some trends could be hard to predict, like the surge of Binay in the vice presidential race in 2010. Aquino’s running mate then, Mar Roxas, seemed the likely winner until Binay took the position with a slim margin of 727,084 votes. Now the Interior Secretary, Roxas still has a pending electoral protest against Binay.

“Nahuli nila 'yung trend pero hindi na-predict,” noted Casiple, who believes the results of Monday’s polls will not necessarily dictate the outcome of the 2016 elections.

“Malayo pa 'yun,” he said. “Ang dami pwede mangyari between now and 2016.”

UNA secretary-general Toby Tiangco agreed. “It’s an election of senators,” he told GMA News Online in a separate interview. “It will just affect the composition of the Senate, that’s the most it will do.”

Tiangco said the results of the 2013 polls would have no bearing on the plans of the Vice President, who is also the president of UNA, for 2016. “For me I don’t think there’s any

connection because they [Aquino and Binay] are not candidates... and we've never framed it that way," he said.

For analyst Lim, however, the midterm polls represent an opportunity for President Aquino to put his allies in Congress and in local government units that could form a support base for LP's standard-bearer in 2016.

“Sa pagpili ng mga magiging kandidato, traditionally, 'yung mga nangunguna sa Senado ang nag-aambisyong maging vice president o minsan president pa nga. Kaya 'di ba may mga bali-balita ngayon na kahit 'yung nasa iisang coalition nag-aaway para maging number 1,” Lim said.

Senator Legarda, who has consistently topped senatorial contests but has lost her bid for the vice presidency twice, had figured in a political tussle with Senator Cayetano in the run-up to Monday's polls.

'Vote-buying'

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) described the existence of vote-buying during elections, particularly at the local level, as rampant but hard to trace and prosecute.

Four women in Zamboanga del Norte were arrested Friday, two in Pangasinan, while a former barangay chairman in Iloilo was arrested due to vote buying.

However, there are reports of other vote-buying incidents that have yet to be investigated.

For her part, Justice Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores reminded voters not to sell their votes.

“Pag sinasayang lang dahil sa pera... o ‘yung popularity lamang ang tinitignan, nakakapanghinayang. We have elections only once every three years [tapos] masasayang niyo pa,” the former Court of Appeals associate justice said.

Election-related violence

The Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded about 58 incidents of election-related violence across the country, with shooting being the most prevalent type, from the period of January 13 to May 5, 2013, the police said on its latest election-related incident report.

Some of the incidents resulted in fatalities, such as the one involving an attack by New People's Army guerrillas on the party of Ruthie de Lara-Guingona, mother of Sen. Teofisto Guingona III.

A rumble between supporters of Taguig mayoral candidate Rica Tinga and incumbent Taguig mayor Lani Cayetano occurred last weekend, prompting Tinga's camp to request that the city be listed as an area of immediate concern.

The violence is not limited among candidates. On May 9, three troops securing PCOS machines were killed in separate NPA attacks.

One of the worst cases was the ambush done by unidentified gunmen in Lanao del Norte on April 25, killing at least 13 people. Among those hurt was a town mayor who is seeking a vice-mayoral seat. – **YA/KG, GMA News**

14 comments

Edward Alvarez. This election won't change a thing for the ordinary Filipinos because most of the candidates are members of the political dynasties and corrupt politicians. The Philippines will be the same corrupt country after today May 13th 2013.

(Reply) **ISRAELIT3S.** People say they want "Pagbabago" but they keep voting the same shyty people...

(Reply to Edward Alvarez) **John Spencer.** So true Edward. I'm watching this from the USA, and sadly it seems you're absolutely correct.....more of the usual. A shame, for pinoys deserve better.

KevinMcCalliste. Happy elections guys! Vote wisely! Vote for good senatoriables like Bam Aquino, Loren Legarda, sonny angara, grace poe and risa!

(Reply to KevinMcCalliste) **piskay.** these are hypocrites my friend!

(Reply to piskay) **ISRAELIT3S.** So sino gusto mo sila Binay honasan at si manong ernie na kalaro ko lagi sa resorts world?

HirayaManawari. Sa lahat ng mga bumoto today sana binoto niyo si loren legarda! :(boboto palang ako mamaya. hihi

(Reply to HirayaManawari) **RachelleAnnGewgew.** I voted for her! ^_^

CarlRoy. Sana talaga manalo most of the team pnoy senatoriables, especially Loren Legarda, Sonny Angara, Risa Hontiveros, Cynthia Villar, and Bam Aquino!! :D

Dyuwela. Go team PNoy! Today I voted straight Pnoy :)

Juan Mendoza Jr.. AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY!

alingscion. the number of votes of nancy binay will reflect the number of votes for jejomar binay when he runs for president. why would people vote for nancy binay on her own accomplishments eh wala. in her own words OJT. .ano ito snap elections?

(Reply to alingscion) **2¢.** Or it reflects how many votes they managed to buy?

(Reply to 2¢) **ISRAELIT3S.** They-comelec need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo

Poll chairman: Problems with PCOS machines only 'minor'

Amita Legaspi

(UPDATED 3:50 p.m.) - Poll chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. on Monday said the problems reported to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) about precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines were only "minor."

In a press briefing, Brillantes said he expects that only about 200 of 78,000 PCOS machines will be replaced due to technical problems.

"Nung 2010, 400 nga of the 76,000 PCOS machines (ang nagkaproblema)," he said.

"Mukhang OK naman (ang election), some reports are blown out of proportion lang," he added.

Misdelivery of ballots

Meanwhile, Brillantes also cited the misdelivery of official ballots for Baguio in Luzon and Compostela Valley in Mindanao.

As the ballots can no longer be brought to the correct precincts, he said there is no chance for the voting to proceed on Monday.

Since only two precincts are involved they may not order for special elections unless the vote for that precinct is crucial for Baguio or Compostela.

Asked how the switching of ballots happened, Brillantes said he has yet to get details but it would probably be a case of mislabeling and said he would hold the forwarders liable for it.

"This is more probably mislabeling doon sa packaging doon sa (ballots). Somebody has to be accountable for it, our forwarders," he said.

It is Comelec personnel who label the official ballots while Air21 is the forwarder responsible for distributing the PCOS machines and paraphernalias for Luzon and Mindanao. The company 2Go is tasked to deliver the voting machines and paraphernalias for Visayas.

Brillantes added that a failure of elections cannot be declared until after the voting period ends and only the Comelec en banc can declare it.

Minor "glitches"

Meanwhile, Brillantes cited "small election glitches" like in Bukidnon where the ballot was not accepted by the PCOS machine.

The Comelec ordered the board of election inspectors to cut the ballot. After that, the ballot was received by the voting machine.

Reports of PCOS machine glitches came in from across the country on Monday.

Even the Tarlac precinct where President Noynoy Aquino was to vote had a PCOS machine that jammed, but was functioning by the time the president arrived at midmorning. Aquino noticeably lined up to vote.

Among the reports received by the Comelec education and information department were the three precincts in Zambales, including one each from Botolan and Candelaria, where the voting was delayed due to the late delivery of precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines.

The voting has begun after the PCOS machines arrived, said Ma. Victoria Dulcero, director III of EID.

They also received report that two PCOS machines in Malolos, Bulacan failed to function due to absence of compact flash (CF) cards. The CF card for the other precinct has already been delivered but the one for Brgy. Mohon has yet to arrive.

Meanwhile, there was a misdelivery of official ballots for Floridablanca, Pampanga and Bustos, Bulacan. The ballots for Floridablanca were initially delivered to Bustos and vice versa.

Dulcero said the ballots have already been delivered to their correct precincts.

She further said that a member of the board of election inspector in Guagua, Pampanga gave out pre-shaded ballots to the voters. She was citing a report by Father Kenneth Alde, operation manager of Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in the area.

The oval allegedly shaded were for certain local candidates in Pampanga. This happened in Precinct 01698 which covers the areas San Miguel Betid, San Juan Nepo and San Juan Bautista.

Dulcero said complainant Elsa Bondoc is now executing an affidavit regarding the incident.

Comelec said the malfunctioning machines are just a tiny fraction of the total. The poll agency is expecting about two percent of the estimated 78,000 PCOS machines to malfunction, or about 1,560 machines.

However, Comelec spokesman James Jimenez reminded voters that they can still vote despite a busted PCOS machine in their precinct. The ballots would later be fed into a working PCOS machine to be counted.

During the election preparations, many raised concerns about the condition of the machines after three years of storage.

They are the same machines that the Comelec rented for the nation's first automated elections in 2010 and which the government purchased in 2012. - **VVP, GMA News**

1 comment

Milesaway. Bumoto ako kahapon dito sa Hong Kong ang bilis wala man 5 minutes tapos ako... Excellent ang rating ko as far as absentee Voting... Sinong binoto ko? syempre yung 12 Senators na mananalo....

PPCRV reports discrepancy in early tally

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) stopped its partial and unofficial count of the senatorial race after erroneous results were released around 8 p.m. Monday, an hour after precincts had closed for the national automated elections.

"The figures, they don't tally with the number of precincts," said PPCRV chairperson Henrietta De Villa.

She said their initial tally showed results from around eight to nine million votes, which correspond to an estimated five to six thousand clustered precincts.

However, De Villa told GMA News Online that the poll watchdog had only tallied 1,418 precincts so far.

"With apologies to the public, the results do not match precinct votes. Smartmatic made to explain the gap. Until then PPCRV will no longer be releasing data/unofficial results until Smartmatic explains gap," the PPCRV said in its official Twitter account.

The poll watchdog later quoted Marlon Garcia of Smartmatic as saying that the data was correct, but it was not properly formatted when transmitted to the PPCRV's computers, resulting in double counting.

The Commission on Elections has authorized the PPCRV to receive a transmission of election returns from the country's 77,829 clustered precincts nationwide, which mirror the official results of the automated midterm polls.

"Smartmatic corrected the script file. We will resume the posting of unofficial results in a while," PPCRV tweeted at 9:20 PM.

De Villa also said she has asked Smartmatic for an explanation about the discrepancy.

"They're looking at the levels of script from the transparency server. Baka may kailangan lang i-adjust," De Villa said.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez told reporters the poll body wants to know what happened, as he emphasized that the tally came from the citizen's arm and not from the Comelec.

"It's partial, it's unofficial, it's not Comelec data," Jimenez said. "We're not saying PPCRV did anything wrong, we just want to know how they got those figures."

Sought for comment, Smartmatic-Asia president Cesar Flores said: "There was no problem with the raw data because it is the same with those in the Comelec website... I think it's an issue of double counting." – **Marc Jayson Cayabyab, Gian Geronimo & Sieg Alegado/YA, GMA News**

2 comments

ISRAELIT3S. They need to suspend para to give way yung vote buying ni nancy and others para sa mga late feeding of ballots, i saw pre shaded ballots name of nancy binay included at honasan etc.. i was about to take a picture pero pinigilan ako bka kuyugin pa ako eh wala pa akong dala kasi gun ban... so sorry nlang tayo..

Preemptive_Thinking. Sana naman po, hindi kayo kakuntyaba ng mga nagpapadding ng mga boto

At sana din po Mr. Cesar Flores, president ng Smartmatic-Asia, hindi ninyo po binenta ang sourcecode sa mga gustong magpadding!

PPCRV reports pre-shaded ballots, reclustered precincts in Maguindanao

Comelec citizens' arm Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting reported some cases of pre-shaded ballots and re-clustering precincts in Maguindanao without due approval from authorities.

Most of these cases happened in the municipality of Sultan Sa Barongis, PPCRV media director Ana Singson told GMA News Online.

Pre-shaded ballots were reported from barangays Kulampog and Tukanakuden, Maguindanao, she said.

Also, precincts were re-clustered without Comelec's approval in barangay Angkayamat in the municipality of Sultan Sa Barongis, Singson noted.

Maguindanao is the site of the country's single-day and deadliest attack against journalists on November 23, 2009, when 58 people – 32 of which were media workers – were killed as they were accompanying the filing of certificates of candidacy of a gubernatorial candidate.

Despite this, the Comelec chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr said the conduct of the 2013 elections is generally "okay."

"In general, mukhang okay ang takbo ng eleksyon. There are certain reports which have been blown out of proportion by media," he said in a press briefing at the Comelec's national canvassing center at the Philippine International Convention Center. — **LBG, GMA News**

2 comments

Rowe Naval. PPCRV volunteers are also political campaigners here in Baguio. Is that okay? I don't think so?

mackoy. Okay? Kailangan na nga ilabas yung mga tanks ng Army, OK?

Raymond Gutierrez, pinuna ang pagpapaliban ng Comelec sa canvassing ng mga boto

Sa pamamagitan ng kanyang Twitter account, kinuwestiyon ng Kapuso host na si Raymond Gutierrez ang pagpapaliban ng national canvassing ng National Board of Canvassers (NBOC) sa pagbilang ng mga boto (Twitter insert):

[Raymond Gutierrez @mondgutierrez](#)

Why would "rest" be the main reason for postponing the canvassing? They know very well that many things can happen overnight. [#strange](#) 😊

Ang NBOC ay binubuo nina chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. at anim na miyembro ng Commission on Elections.

Magpapatutuloy ang national canvassing ng 10 a.m. ngayong Martes.

Tumatakbo ang ina ni Raymond na si Annabelle Rama bilang kongresista sa unang distrito ng Cebu. - **Mac Macapendeg/FRJ, GMA News**

4 comments

Vahl Francisca Capistrano. CEBUANOS ARE WISE VOTERS, mangampanya ng maayos hindi laging SINISIRAAN ANG kalaban, SINO BA KAYO IN THE FIRST PLACE?compare to the old rich,True Cebuanos Del Mar?

padayon sa imong kinabuhi BAYOT, nagtuo man gud mo hawd mo nga GRABE MO KA PLASTIK diri Cebu dala dala pa mo mga artista who U?

g par. tamang duda pa tong anak ni Annabele baka daw dayain ung Nanay nya. ha.....ha....ha.....ha....baka kung ang nakalaban ni Annabelle e ung katulong naming taga Cebu baka talunin pa sya nito. mas may maganda nag breeding nung katulong namin kaysa kay Annabelle

echoserangfroggy. Walang pong dayaan na nagaganap vklush na raymond,gumaganun ganun ka pa?haka haka?lol ,karma yan sa lakas ng loob ng takles mong nanay.cebu hates her,she doesnt really have fans its only her wishful thinking.

Pidyong. hahaha ganyan talaga kapag natatalo na ang nanay mo lahat napapansin mo na tipong akala mo may dayaan na nangyayari. Bakit akala mo ba robot ng mga taga comelec at di sila napapagod, ang galing mo naman bugoy ka naman

Smartmatic exec expects 200 to 300 defective PCOS machines

(Updated 11:50 a.m.) The president of Smartmatic Asia, the supplier of precinct count optical scan machines, expects around 200 to 300 machines to need replacing on Election Day due to various technical problems.

"Throughout the day, we will reach 200 or 300 (replacements). Of course, it's uncomfortable. If that happens, everybody would feel that the precinct is collapsing. But that's more or less the nature of an automated elections in any country," said Cesar Flores in a chance interview at the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) national canvassing center.

He said the Comelec has set aside 2,000 PCOS replacements in case of glitches.

Flores said Comelec will ship replacement PCOS within an hour or two.

He pleaded to the public to "manage their expectations" in the country's second automated elections due to some "intrinsic limitations" on the part of election officers.

"You cannot expect them to be experts on how to fix machines. There are intrinsic limitations to running the elections. That has to be understood by the people," Flores said.

The Comelec has deployed 78,000 machines were distributed around 40,000 locations nationwide.

In a text message to GMA News Online, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said 450 machines were replaced in 2010.

Voting runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. — with **Amita Legaspi/LBG, GMA News**

3 comments

Paul. Its things like this that makes people think voter fraud.. IN ADVANCE

Little Chuck. Defective PCOS machines? Why does the PHIL Government engaged themselves with Smartmatic knowing that even Smartmatic Execs is predicting that their machines would be faulty during election day? Sinasadya ba ito or ganoon lang talaga ang buhay sa eleksyon? Sayang lang ang binabayad nyo dyan kundi naman reliable at accurate yan. Pera ng taxpayers noh!!!!

MONTOMS. There were already reports of malfunctioning of picos machines, comelec and smartmatic should give a good acceptable explanation for the problems of the picos machines.

Sample ballots, campaign leaflets still being distributed at polling centers



Early crowd at Parañaque Elementary School for Eleksyon 2013. Voters flock to Parañaque Elementary School an hour before polls open to look for their names on the official list of voters. Millions of Filipinos nationwide will exercise their right to vote starting 7 a.m. on Monday. **Jayson Bondoc, GMA News**

In defiance of election rules, supporters of some candidates continued to distribute sample ballots and other campaign materials to voters on Election Day.

In Caloocan City, people were seen giving sample ballots to voters at the vicinity of the Caloocan National High School, radio dzBB's Allan Gatus reported Monday.

No one was there to call the attention of the supporters that such actions are not allowed on Election Day, the report said.

Some people were also distributing campaign materials near Lerma Elementary School, also in Caloocan City.

In Cainta in Rizal province, campaign materials littered the Cainta Elementary School as of 8 a.m., dzBB's Glen Juego tweeted.

Meanwhile, in Marawi City, GMA News reporter Jun Veneracion posted on his Twitter account a photo of children distributing campaign leaflets in polling centers.

They were allegedly paid P50 for the act, the report said.

At 7 a.m. Monday, Filipinos started casting their votes for 12 senators, party-list groups, and local government officials.

Illegal campaign paraphernalias, including distribution of campaign materials on Election Day, constitute an election offense that is punishable under Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code.

The provision states that any person found guilty of any election offense shall be punished with imprisonment from one to six years and shall not be subject to probation.

“In addition, the guilty party shall be sentenced to suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage,” the provision further states.

Elections chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. earlier said there will be no let up in the drive against violators of campaign rules.

He said that they will no longer be issuing notices but will just gather evidence and file the necessary complaint before the Comelec Law Department.

Brillantes said campaign materials should be seen at no other place but common posters area. — with **Amita Legasi/RSJ, GMA News**

2 comments

KernelDebugger Galingan. <https://www.facebook.com/photo...> reklamo ng isang tao....

Guest. paki confirm po kung totoo po ito...

UNA alarmed over pre-shaded ballots

Kimberly Jane Tan

The United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) on Monday night was alarmed by reports that alleged the existence of pre-shaded ballots in some parts of Metro Manila.

In a press conference, UNA Secretary General Toby Tiangco said they received reports of pre-shaded ballots at the P. Burgos Elementary School and P. Guevarra Elementary School in Manila and in Signal Village in Taguig.

"This this has to be answered. Why were there pre-shaded ballots?" he said.

"Papaanong nakalusot ang pre-shaded ballots?" he added.

Tiangco said most of the pre-shaded ballots seemed to favor the administration bets.

Tiangco did show of a video the allegedly showed one of the pre-shaded ballots. It had seven Team PNoy senatorial bets, three UNA, and an independent candidate shaded.

Furthermore, Tiangco was worried about the alleged defective precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines in Caloocan and the initial tally of the PPCRV, which showed higher numbers compared to others.

The PPCRV eventually said that a software error was the cause of the difference, which has since been corrected.

"I know it's an honest mistake but during elections we cannot cause people to panic and confuse people, magkakagulo-gulo niyan. ,I hope this doesn't happen again," he said. — **DVM, GMA News**

1 comment

Matt Cruz. That's UNA does all the time.Reversing UNA and Team Pnoy/Liberals' real nature. Are they implying they can go better than 10-2 or 11-1? This kind of result only tells us that there are still a lot of uneducated, immature, blind Filipino voters, esp with regards to Nancy -Nasty.

US embassy looks forward to 'witnessing democracy' in PHL

The United States Embassy in Manila on Monday said it is looking forward to "witnessing democracy" in the Philippines as Filipinos cast their votes in the May 13 midterm election.

In a post on its Twitter account, the embassy also posted a photo showing US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. greeting Commission on Elections chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr.

It's Election Day in the Philippines! We are looking forward to witnessing democracy in action today. [#PHVote ow.ly/i/257DC](#)

— U.S. Embassy Manila (@usembassymanila) [May 12, 2013](#)

"It's Election Day in the Philippines! We are looking forward to witnessing democracy in action today," it said.

The link on the tweet led to a photo of Thomas greeting Brillantes at a training for election observers at the US Embassy last April 29.

Arrived at 05:55am to observe opening of this voting station. Staff working hard to be ready for voters. [twitter.com/USEmbManilaNo2...](#)

— Brian Goldbeck (@USEmbManilaNo2) [May 13, 2013](#)

1st voter in at 0702; voted and out at 0719. Voting has begun so leaving the Forbes Park Pavilion. [#PHVote twitter.com/USEmbManilaNo2...](#)

— Brian Goldbeck (@USEmbManilaNo2) [May 13, 2013](#)

US Embassy deputy chief of mission Brian Goldbeck observed the proceedings at a voting station near Forbes Park, arriving at 5:55 a.m.

"First voter in at 7:02 a.m., and out at 7:19 a.m. Voting has begun so leaving the Forbes Park Pavilion," Goldbeck tweeted.

Starting at 7 a.m. Monday, Filipinos trooped to voting centers to cast their votes for 12 senators, party lists, and local officials.

Security was tight at the polling centers, with the Philippine National Police working with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to ensure peace and order. - **AMD, GMA News**

1 comment

magarito. Godbless our country

Valte, 'di nakaboto matapos mawala ang pangalan sa listahan ng mga botante

Nagpahayag ng pagkadismaya si presidential deputy spokesman Abigail Valte matapos na hindi siya makaboto ngayong halalan.

Sa kanyang Twitter account, ipinaalam ng opisyal ang kanyang pagkabigla nang malaman na wala ang pangalan niya sa listahan ng mga botante sa kanilang lugar.

"Came from the Makati COMELEC office.record says I didn't vote in 2 consecutive elections but I voted in 2010. How can that be?!" nakasaad sa post ni Valte sa kanyang Twitter account.

Ngunit itinanggi ni Valte dahil noong 2009 lang siya nagparehistro kaya tiyak siya sa pagboto sa nakaraang 2010 elections kung saan nanalong presidente si Pangulong Benigno Aquino III.

Gayunman, masaya na rin umano si Valte dahil nakalista naman ang pangalan ng kanyang ina kaya kahit papaano ay mayroon nakaboto sa kanila.

Pinayuhan umano ng taga-Comelec si Valte na muli na lamang magparehistro para makaboto sa susunod na eleksiyon.

Una rito, napaulat din na hindi makakaboto ngayong eleksiyon ang misyong tagapagsalita ng Comelec na si Atty. James Jimenez matapos ma-deactivate ang kanyang pangalan dahil hindi rin nakaboto sa nakaraang dalawang eleksiyon. -- **FRJimenez, GMA News**

3 comments

ISRAELIT3S. Nakuh, sibakin mo yan si brillantes palpak talaga yan eh.

akosiKapitanObyus. hahaha! hahaha!

Guest. Dear gma reporters, please note that james jimenez is not a lawyer, though he took up law in UST.

VP Binay open to reconciliation with Koko

Vice President Jejomar Binay on Monday said he's willing to patch things up with Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, a party-mate who ran under the rival coalition for the May 13 elections, although he hinted that he did not vote for him.

"Ako hindi ako nag-alis ng willingness [na makipag-usap], nandun ako lagi. Eleksyon lang naman ito," Binay told reporters Monday after voting at the San Antonio National High School in Makati City.

But asked whether he voted for 12 senators, Binay said that may only help the other party since their coalition, the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), has only nine senatorial candidates.

"Siyam lang yata 'yung kandidato namin," he said, refusing to elaborate any further.

His daughter, UNA senatorial candidate Nancy Binay, also refused to state whether she voted for candidates from outside their slate.

"Basta 'yung siyam, binoto ko 'yung siyam. 'Yung tatlo secret na lang whether bumoto ako or hindi, kung anuman magiging resulta, it's God's will," she said in a separate interview.

UNA is a coalition between Binay's PDP-Laban and former President Joseph Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

Pimentel, son of former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., was supposed to run under UNA but he backed out after learning that he will be sharing the ticket with former Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, against whom he had filed an electoral protest.

Pimentel then decided to accept the invitation of President Benigno Aquino III to run as guest candidate under the administration-led Team PNoy.

Pimentel, as president of PDP-Laban, then left his duties to Binay. — **Kimberly Jane Tan/KBK/HS, GMA News**

2 comments

walangbolahan. hindi ka kailangan ni koko. kayo ni migz ang magsama

Jojo Griffin. Okay lang naman na hindi mo binoto si Koko Pimentel Kasi hindi ka din namna niya binoto.kaya patas lang.

VP Binay to support only PNoy's 'good programs' after elections

Kimberly Jane Tan

Vice President Jejomar Binay on Monday said he will fully support only the "good programs" of President Benigno Aquino III after the May 13 elections, which is being seen as dictating the political tempo towards the presidential election in 2016. Binay is considered an early frontrunner for next president.

"Susupportahan namin todo-todo ang Pangulong Noynoy dun sa mga programang tama," Binay told reporters after voting at the San Antonio National High School in Makati City.

But Binay, a former Makati mayor, quickly noted that he and his party will remain a constructive opposition. "Yung kulang, tututukan. 'Yung mali, kailangan kontrahin," he said.

Binay is expected to run for the presidency in 2016 under the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA), the main rival of the administration-led Team PNoy in the 2013 polls. In several UNA sorties, he was introduced as "the next president of the Philippines."

Nancy

Binay's 2016 ambition is not the only one at stake in the 2013 polls since his daughter, Nancy, is running for senator.

Binay, however, said he's not worried about his daughter's political future despite her being among the most criticized senatorial candidates.

"I know she's going to win," he said, adding that it's only "natural" for Nancy, who performed well in various pre-election surveys, to have critics.

He brushed off criticism that Nancy is too inexperienced for a Senate seat since she has yet to hold any government position. — **KBK/HS, GMA News**

22 comments

lex. Mag-ingat kay BINAY, mapagkunwari ang taong ito. Kunwari FULL SUPPORT daw kay PNOY after election pero may MAKASARILING AGENDA. Di lang balat niya ang ITIM, pati BOTO! Mag ingat sa CORRUPT!

vigilanti. Si Agata Binay..... Pwe..

Arnold Aguirre. Ang mga mahihirap pa din ang nagpapahirap sa bayan!!!!

Arnold Aguirre. Showing his true and real color(S) this early!!! Sa lahat nang mga nakakaintindi sa kahihihatanan nang pinas pag manalo si Binay, malakas kong suggestion! Alis na sa Pinas! Dahil ang 'Ka -"ITIMAN" este Kadiliman ang maghahari sa 2016!!!

cyberbully. alam natin na ang pulitika ay napakarumi pero, pamilyang BINAY lahat nasa pulitika... ganyan sila karumi, kinakain ng pamilya galing sa N*****

cyberbully. kapag nanalo si nancy binay sa pagka senador may posibilidad din na manalo si vp sa pagka president ganyan kabulok ang mentalidad ng maraming pilipino

Guest. Mar roxas and among ed panlilio for 2016!

Guest. Kung pagbabasehan ang ikinikilos at salita ni vp binay at kung sino sino ang mga nakapligid sa kanya such as erap and enrile, ngayon pa lng nakakabahala na kung ano ang maari nilang gawin sa pinas. Nagagamit nilang panglinlang ang pagiging makamahirap at simple nilang image para makuha ang suporta lalo ng mahihirap pero sa kabila nito ay mukha ng pagnanakaw at korupsiyon ang katotohanan. I'll be one of those who will stand against them, simulan ko sa pagpapaliwanag sa pamilya ko, relatives, friends and co-workers. let us help each other to build a better philippines na sinimulan na ng gobyernong 'to. Galaw galaw kabayan!

j1u2a3n. Ano namang kawalan sa Pilipinas kung 'di n'ya suportahan ang programa ng gobyerno? Taas naman ng tingin n'ya sa sarili n'ya.

zefertilizerscam10. Sandiganbayan graft case

Elenita Binay's (and private businessmen Li Yee Shing, Jason Li and Vivian M. Edurise, and Ernesto Aspillaga's) arraignment for graft charges was set by the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division on January 18, 2008. Binay was charged of alleged anomalous purchase of office fixtures and furniture for the new Makati City Hall from private contractor Office Gallery International from December 1999 to February 2000, regarding the acquisitions worth P 13.25 million overpriced by P3.6 million.

zefertilizerscam10. Binay wife linked to Php72.06-M graft

A FORMER whistleblower in high-profile graft corruption controversies turned-head of government's financial watchdog yesterday linked the wife of Vice President Jejomar Binay, an incumbent and several former Makati City officials to alleged deception in the public bidding for a Php72.06 million supply contract awarded by the city government in 2001.

mrkvz2003. be smart and analyze very carefully this person...unbelievable!

jenny andres. kawawa talaga ang pilipinas pag binoto pa ng mga pinoy si binay sa 2016. tawag sa Pinas pag naging presidente si binay... EPICFAIL.

Atty, No Case. BINAY...POLITIKA...POLITIKA...POLITIKA...puro POLITIKA nsa kokote mo. Gusto mo lahat na sa FAMILY mo naka position sa Gov't. Dynasty + Power = Corrupt. Just after casting vote for 2013 midterm election...BINAY started politicking again for his 2016 ambition...

ILOVECAPIZ. nasa bb+ or investment grade na ngayun ang pilipinas sa tingin ko dahil yun sa pagsisikap ni ninoy although diko siya binoto noon, ngayun saludo ako sa kanya

in 2010 nag angkat ang pilipinas almost 2 millions tons of rice ngayun 180k tons same as same as the DGP rating na ngayun lang nakuha mula ng mawala si marcos sa pwesto,hindi mararamdaman yan ngayun pero kung magpatuloy ang investment grade ng pilipinas more job yan sa darating na mga taon..

(Reply to ILOVECAPIZ) Julian V. Jupiter. Same. I didn't vote him but Villar for Prers., but now i truly salute him, Aling Gloria & Erap are not comparable to his achievements. I wish katulad din ni PNoy ang next Pres., I voted Binay last election for VP, but next Prest'l. elections I'll vote Mar Roxas, I think like PNoy he has K to fight against corruption; no way to Binay, corrupt yan, dami kaibigang mayayaman, kasama pa nya si Erap & family, & Enrile & family.

Ramil Abalon. ha ha ha you see yan si Binay....wla pa 2016 politika na naman ang nasa isip iboboto mo ba sya? di na...

Matt Cruz. Mr Dy-NASTY's statement is without substance as always. Jejomar, name the programs. Your statements are all cliches almost all the time.From a demagogue (demonyo-gogue) like you. You will never become President Mr Atat.

I_love_mypilipinas. If Binay becomes president in 2016, then Philippines will be pulled right back into that sinkhole of graft, corruption and dynasties. The very same situation the country is trying to get out of.

(Reply to I_love_mypilipinas) opinionkolang. Tama ka masyado naman bilib sa sarili si Binay, feeling nya katulad pa rin ng 2010 ang mangyayari sa kanya sa 2016. Naku nadala lang ang tao sa sa akala nila. Nagyon lumabas ba ang tunay na kulay nya. Gagawin nyan ang lahat maging presidente lang sya. Bulok!

(Reply to opinionkolang) Arnold Aguirre. sus pare sigurado ka? Bakit ang anak nasa 5th place ngayon? Matakot na tayo ngayon pa lang ang mag empake na paalis nang pinas! Meron pa tayong 3 taon para aayusin ang mga papers natin! Hala sibat na!!!

(Reply to I_love_mypilipinas) Matt Cruz. I agree without thinking

APPENDIX C – GMA News Online Comment Policy

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5. Self-censored comments (e.g., using asterisks in place of offensive words) that fall into any of the aforementioned categories
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