



Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP
PNP HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS OFFICE
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 7230401 local 3668



Press Release

Date: May 5, 2010

Authority: PCSUPT FRANKLIN JESUS B BUCAYU
Chief, Human Rights Affairs Office

CHR links up with PNP to ensure protection of people's right to vote

The Commission on Human Rights has linked up with the Philippine National Police to ensure the promotion and protection of the people's right to suffrage during the May 10 elections.

During the signing of a Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) today by the Chief, PNP, Police Director General Jesus A. Verzosa and CHR Chairperson Leila M. De Lima, the two leaders vowed that the will of the voting Filipinos should be exercised freely, safely and intelligently whether inside or outside of voting precincts. And this includes ensuring the people's enjoyment of their right to suffrage without fear or harassment.

The PNP is the lead Commission on Elections (Comelec) deputized agency for law enforcement for the May 10 electoral exercise.

"For the PNP, our election duties are more than just maintaining peace and order. In essence, it is about protecting human rights, including the people's right to vote. The signing of the Memorandum of Undertaking with the Commission on Human Rights for the latter to provide support and advice on human rights concerns related to Halalan 2010 provides a sense of completeness to our security measures," Verzosa said.

He said that the right of suffrage is a basic human right embodied in several national and international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

Under the MOU signed at the Main Conference Room of the PNP National Headquarters in Camp Crame, the CHR will participate in PNP meetings to share inputs and advice, and act as independent monitor and adviser on human rights issues and concerns related to the Halalan 2010 national and local elections.

The Chief, PNP said the active participation of CHR representatives as independent advisers and monitors would add a more meaningful and measurable dimension to the PNP's monitoring activities

"It would be our privilege to include the CHR during meetings to be conducted by the National Election Monitoring and Action Center (NEMAC) and its regional counterparts, specifically on the situation of the Election Watch Areas (EWAs) and Election-Related Incidents (ERVIs)," said Police Chief Superintendent Franklin Jesus B. Bucayu, Chief of the Human Rights Affairs Office (HRAO)..

Under the MOU, the CHR will also send its representatives to provide assistance to the Joint Security Coordination Centers (JSCCs) Security Assistance Desks (SADs) to be established in every polling center or cluster of polling centers nationwide.

Another provision of the MOU is for the CHR to assist the PNP in the conduct of pre-deployment orientation on human rights principles and practices to be followed by police personnel to be deployed to the Joint security Coordination Centers (JSCCs) Security Assistance Desks.

In addition, the CHR will provide inputs and advice to the PNP in the investigation and filing of cases of alleged human rights violations, specifically those that curtail the people's rights of suffrage.

#