



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

EN BANC

**GUIDELINES FOR MASS
MEDIA ACCREDITATION
FOR THE: 1) OCTOBER 1-8,
2024 FILING OF
CERTIFICATES OF
CANDIDACY, AND 2) MAY
12, 2025 NATIONAL, LOCAL,
AND BARMM
PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS**

GARCIA, George Erwin M.
INTING, Socorro B.
CASQUEJO, Marlon S.
FEROLINO, Aimee P.
BULAY, Rey E.
MACEDA, Jr., Ernesto Ferdinand P.
CELIS, Nelson, J.

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

x-----x

Promulgated: September 16, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 11062

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), as the sole government agency charged with the conduct of honest, orderly and peaceful elections has a substantial interest in maintaining the orderliness and credibility of elections;

WHEREAS, duly accredited members of the mass media shall be given free access to the venue of the filing of certificates of candidacy for national positions, polling places, voting centers, and canvassing centers for purposes of observing and reporting on election events and processes;

WHEREAS, it is expected that the conduct of the October 1-8, 2024 Filing of Certificates of Candidacy (Filing of COC) and the May 12, 2025 National, Local, and BARMM Parliamentary Elections (2025 NLE and BPE) will be the subject of massive media coverage by *domestic* and *foreign* media, including both mainstream and alternative media;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of amateur media enthusiasts and independent media practitioners may be used as a means to mask the operations of certain individuals or groups who intend to undermine the orderliness and credibility of elections;

WHEREAS, accreditation shall ensure the integrity of individuals or groups performing media functions during the elections and election-related preparatory activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7166 and other election laws, the COMELEC has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following guidelines:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the COMELEC to ensure accurate reporting on the conduct and results of the elections by providing maximum access to all stages of the electoral process to accredited media practitioners, subject only to conditions essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, privileged information, and integrity of the elections.

SECTION 2. Definitions. – As used in this Resolution:

- a) **Media Practitioner** refers to a person or group of persons actively engaged in the pursuit of information gathering and reporting or distribution, in any manner or form, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - broadcasters or otherwise engaged in the writing, editing, or conveying/transmitting of news and information to the public;
 - journalists (TV, Print, Online, Radio)
 - editors, publishers, manager or proprietor of a publication or broadcast station
 - reporter, editor, radio and television program producer and presenter employed by a media institution
- b) **Foreign Media** refers to media practitioners working for and on behalf of a foreign media corporation or entity, regardless of their individual nationality;
- c) **Visiting Foreign Media** refers to Foreign Media who are not based or who does not have a bureau/office in the Philippines and will only come to the Philippines for the purpose of covering elections and election-related preparatory activities;
- d) **Local Media** refers to Media Practitioners working for and on behalf of a local media corporation or entity with online or print publications, regardless of their corporate or investment structure including correspondents of, and stringers on assignment for, regional, provincial, city or municipal publications or broadcast entities; *except* that local media who

operate in the National Capital Region (NCR) shall be considered as National Media as defined below;

- e) *National Media* refers to Media Practitioners working for and on behalf of a local media corporation or entity with online or print publications, or which engages in radio/television broadcasting, with national circulation or viewership, including provincial correspondents of, and stringers on assignment for national publications or broadcast entities;

SECTION 3. General Requirements for Accreditation. – Media practitioners, whether foreign, local, or national media, applying for accreditation shall submit the following:

- a) For the purpose of the Filing of COC (National Positions only)

1. A fully accomplished COMELEC Media Accreditation Form;
2. Two (2) recent passport size photographs;
3. Endorsement from the publisher, editor-in-chief, assignment editor, station manager, or similar officer of the newspaper, television station, radio station, or online publication employing the applicant or from the bureau chief, in case of foreign media based in Manila; and
4. An endorsement from the duly authorized officer of the broadcast entity or film distributor which has committed to air/distribute the work.

- b) For the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE

1. A fully accomplished COMELEC Media Accreditation Form;
2. Two (2) recent 1.5" x 1.5" colored photographs;
3. Where applicable, an endorsement from the publisher, editor-in-chief, assignment editor, station manager, or similar officer of the newspaper, television station, radio station, or online publication employing the applicant or from the bureau chief, in case of foreign media based in Manila; and

4. An endorsement from the duly authorized officer of the broadcast entity or film distributor which has committed to air/distribute the work.

Endorsements from any person other than those mentioned above shall not be honored.

In addition, online media practitioners shall be subject to the submission of the following requirements:

- a) Uniform Resource Locator (URL)/Webpage Address of the online publication including the applicant's name, and indicating whether as a sole account owner or as a contributor to a website or social media platform developed by a team;
- b) Copies of regular online articles or posts related to the topic of politics, elections, governance, or other related topics, by-lined or published on the applicant's or similar online sites in the last six months from the time of submission of application for accreditation;
- c) The website or online publication should be updated at least once a week with contents which are original, dated and not mere shared links and community boards;
- d) Proof/Certifications of having no personal websites, fan sites, forums, and sites containing personal diaries will be eligible for accreditation. Only website editors and writers shall qualify for accreditation; and
- e) Online publications which are communications outreach or advocacy publications of non-governmental organizations do not qualify for media accreditation.

Personal, commercial or company blogs/vlogs are not eligible for accreditation.

SECTION 4. Application Forms. - COMELEC Media Accreditation Forms shall be available at the:

- a) For the purpose of the Filing of COC (National Positions only)
 1. COMELEC EID; or
 2. may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (<http://www.comelec.gov.ph>)

The applications for accreditation shall be filed at COMELEC EID either personally or by an authorized representative or via online.

- b) For the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE

1. COMELEC EID;
2. Offices of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES); or
3. may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (<http://www.comelec.gov.ph>)

SECTION 5. *Period for Filing Application for Accreditation.* - The non-extendible period for the filing of applications for accreditation shall be filed:

- a) For the purpose of the Filing of COC (National Positions only)
 - from the effectivity of this Resolution until September 25, 2024 only;
- b) For the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE
 - until March 31, 2025.

SECTION 6. *Submission of Applications for Accreditation.* - The applications for accreditation shall be filed either personally or by an authorized representative at:

- a) For the purpose of the Filing of COC (National Positions only)
 - the COMELEC EID office or via online.
- b) For the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE
 - the COMELEC EID or via online for applications for accreditation of *national, foreign* media and other media, both domestic and foreign;
 - the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES) concerned for applications for accreditation of *local media*.

The link for the online submission shall be announced by the COMELEC through the EID. Applications with incomplete requirements shall not be processed.

SECTION 7. *Approval of Applications for Accreditation.* - Approval of applications for accreditation is hereby delegated by the Chairman to the:

- a) For the purpose of the Filing of COC (National Positions only)
 - Director IV of the COMELEC EID
- b) For the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE
 - Director IV of the COMELEC EID - for national, foreign and other media; and
 - The concerned PES - for local media

SECTION 8. Report on Actions Taken on Applications for Accreditation. – Within seven (7) days from the last date of filing of application for accreditation, the concerned PES shall furnish the EID, via e-mail, a list of all applications received, indicating the status of each individual application, whether approved or denied.

SECTION 9. Media Card. – Upon approval of the application, the EID and PES shall issue media cards to all accredited media practitioners. Media cards must be claimed, personally or through an authorized representative, from the EID, for national, foreign and other media; and from the concerned OPES, in case of local media.

The COMELEC media card is strictly *non-transferable* and is valid only for the purpose for which it was issued. It shall be worn prominently whenever the media practitioners are covering or observing any official event, open to the public, relating to the elections for which accreditation was sought.

Improper use of the media card, or use thereof not in accordance with these guidelines, shall be considered abuse of the accreditation and will be subjected to summary revocation.

SECTION 10. Access. – Duly accredited media shall be allowed access to the venue of the filing of certificates of candidacy for national positions, polling places, voting centers, canvassing centers, and the like, subject to reasonable regulations and house rules to ensure order and proper decorum.

SECTION 11. Rules of Conduct. - All accredited media shall observe the following rules of conduct, as may be applicable:

- a) Respect the authority of the COMELEC, the Electoral Board, and/or the Canvassing Board with respect to the number of accredited media which may be allowed inside the COC filing venue, polling place and/or canvassing venue at any given time, among others;
- b) Immediately identify themselves upon entry into the COC filing venue, polling place, and/or canvassing venue, by presenting their media cards, subject to reasonable and necessary security measures and protocols;
- c) Observe proper decorum at all times, particularly during press conferences and interviews, maintaining the decency and dignity of the working place;
- d) Strictly no loitering inside the COC filing venue, polling place, and/or canvassing venue;

- e) Maintain professionalism at all times. Unprofessional activities shall not be tolerated. The accreditation of any media practitioner found to have engaged in any unprofessional activity shall be summarily revoked by the COMELEC, Electoral or Canvassing Board where the activity complained of is committed, by confiscating the media card of the offender. The revocation shall be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting, stating therein the reasons therefor;

Unprofessional activities shall include, but shall not be limited to:

1. Any behavior deemed disruptive of the conduct of the COC filing, voting, counting, or canvassing;
2. Refusal to submit to the authority of the COMELEC, the Electoral Board members or the Department of Education Supervisor Official (DESO) of the voting center where the coverage is being conducted, and/or the Board of Canvassers;
3. Engaging in partisan political activities, which refer to acts designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to public office;
4. Any behavior intended to unduly influence the choice of voters, such as, but not limited to, directly swaying the voter to speak for or against a candidate;
5. Distributing campaign materials;
6. Any behavior deemed unlawful, including violation of Gender-Related Laws and Issuances.

SECTION 12. *Validity of Accreditation.* – Media practitioners who were accredited for the purpose of the October 1-8, 2024 Filing of COC are already deemed accredited for the purpose of the 2025 NLE and BPE, subject to the submission of updated documents as may be required by the COMELEC.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 14. *Dissemination.* – The Executive Director shall furnish copies of this Resolution to the Office of the President, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Information Agency, and all mass media organizations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs shall furnish copies of this Resolution to all foreign embassies and consulates.

The EID shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies to the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and the Election Officers.

SO ORDERED.

GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA

Chairman

SOCORRO B. INTING

Commissioner

MARLON S. CASQUEJO

Commissioner

AIMEE P. FEROLINO

Commissioner

REY E. BULAY

Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.

Commissioner

NELSON J. CELIS

Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication, September 16, 2024.



CONSUELO B. DIOLA

Director IV

Office of the Commission Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02)85272987; email address comsec@comelec.gov.ph.