



HOME FOR NOW. A family stays in a temporary shelter as their house remains submerged in Biñan, Laguna. Some parts of Northern Luzon and Metro Manila have remained flooded even as storm 'Ondoy' and typhoon 'Pepeng' left the country.

Philstar.com photo by Edd Gumban

Voters without biometrics can still vote - Comelec

by ANNA VALMERO
Inquirer.net

MANILA – Registered voters who have not enrolled their biometrics data can still vote in next year's elections, a Commission on Elections (Comelec) spokesman said on Wednesday.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez clarified misconceptions on the "biometrics requirement" and added the poll body discontinued for the meantime the enrollment of biometrics of registered voters so Comelec officers can prioritize the registration of voters until October 31.

"Registered voters who haven't had their biometrics captured need not panic. They can still vote in 2010 as long as their names are in the computerized voters' list (CVL)," said Jimenez.

The purpose of biometrics data, consisting of digital fingerprints, photo and signature, is for the cleansing of the CVL using unique multiple fingerprint voter data, generation of voters ID and setup of a database that will identify voters using any of their biometrics information in future elections.

"Capturing biometrics during voter's registration was only initiated in 2004 so we expect our old-time voters not to have their biometrics yet. The agency plans to process all voter's information in a data bank so in future elections, biometrics can be used to identify a voter. But for now, we are focused on the registration and we will announce later when we will resume the capturing of biometrics," said Jimenez.

Since the capturing of voters biometrics in 2004, about 21.27 million IDs have been released or half of the total 45 million registered voters in 2007; the

other half of 45 million have no biometrics records yet or have enrolled their biometrics but were corrupted during transport of data to Comelec, said Jimenez.

"We want to clarify with our voters that the voters ID, which is generated using biometrics data, is not a requirement to vote. However, in the future we plan to use biometrics to cleanse our voters' list and rid it of multiple registration records," said Jimenez.

On October, Comelec awarded a P1.6 billion CVL cleansing project using biometrics to Unison, a joint venture composed of Unison Computer Systems, NEC Philippines and Lamco Paper Products.

The project covers the provision of automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) to detect multiple records in the CVL using biometrics and an additional 2,000 data capturing machines to be deployed in election offices to augment the 600 units available nationwide.

For the 2010 elections, Comelec will deploy 80,000 precinct count optical (PCOS) machines to automate the voting, counting, transmission and consolidation of votes.

Meanwhile, the Comelec also launched a new website <http://ehope2010.ph> meant exclusively to provide voters a forum where they can pose their questions – and get answers from poll officials – about the automated elections system to be implemented nationwide for the first time in May.

Jimenez said they hope that through the website, they will be able to answer all queries about automated elections. Newly appointed Commissioner Gregorio Larrabal said he will personally answer some questions. ■

MARIAN COLLEGE

MARIAN HEALTH CAREERS CENTER
Since 1992

We are **MARIANS**. We belong to a legacy of excellence in the healthcare industry that spans 17 years of quality service.

Will you be a part of this legacy?

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSING

Financial Aid and Academic Scholarships Available!

INTRAVENOUS THERAPY CERTIFICATION

NEW PART-TIME CLASS SCHEDULES!
Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

2009 - 2010 Class Schedules

Los Angeles: October 19, 2009 (Full-Time) | March 12, 2010 (Part-Time)
Van Nuys: November 23, 2009 (Full-Time) | February 19, 2010 (Part-Time)

LOS ANGELES	VAN NUYS
3325 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1010 Los Angeles, CA 90010 Tel No. (213) 388-3566 Fax No. (213) 388-9606	5900 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 101 Van Nuys, CA 91411 Tel No. (818) 782-6163 Fax No. (818) 782-6086

CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION! Or visit us @ www.mariancollegecalifornia.com

TAX REBATE: Up to \$1500/House. PALITAN ANG PINTO, BINTANA AT BAKOD NGAYON!

Can You Imagine?

Bagong Bintana, Pinto at Bakod
Pagandahin ang iyong **TAHANAN**

- PRESYONG KAYANG-KAYA
- HIGH QUALITY WITH LIFETIME WARRANTY
- FREE ESTIMATES
- SLASH ENERGY BILLS BY ABOUT 40%
- ENHANCE RESALE VALUE & INCREASE CURB APPEAL

NAPAGANDA MO NA...
NAKATULONG KA PA!

PAYS FOR ITSELF OVER THE LONG RUN

Hanapin si **VIV**

5% of your Total Cost will be donated to the victims of TYPHOON ONDOY in the Philippines. EXP: 11/20/09

DOORS
WINDOWS
VINYL FENCES

www.imaginehomecenter.com

(626) 456-8414

9730 Factorial Way
So. El Monte, CA 91733

JOIN OUR VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

BVNPT

Approved by CALIFORNIA Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT)

School offers FINANCIAL AID to those who qualify for Pell Grant, Direct Loans, Plus Loans or Private Loans. Please call George for more information.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID NOW AVAILABLE

How would you like to give yourself a nice raise?

Bring a friend to join with you and get \$250 off!

Must bring this AD to qualify for a FREE LAPTOP

OTHER CLASSES OFFERED:

Nurse Assistant
Medical Assistant
Pharmacy Technician

Special Offer
FREE LAPTOP
to qualified students!

Call us now to make an appointment!

BENEFITS OF HOMESTEAD:
Computer for each student, Free NCLEX review, Small Classes, Free Tutorials

HOMESTEAD SCHOOLS

23844 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 200
Torrance, CA 90505

(310) 791-9975 & (800) 253-0088

Please visit our website www.homesteadschools.com for more information

REYES LAW GROUP

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

Fight Foreclosure.
Save Your Home.
Eliminate Your Debts.

With a track record of over 17 years of legal excellence, Norberto F. Reyes, III, of REYES LAW GROUP, APLC, specializes in helping you take control of your financial crisis and improving your financial outlook for the future. From simple loan modifications to seeking bankruptcy protection, REYES LAW GROUP, APLC, has a custom-tailored solution to fit your needs. *Call us today for a free consultation.*

REYES LAW GROUP

213-382-6600

www.ReyesLawGroup.com

Wilshire Financial Towers
3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1510 Los Angeles, CA 90010
SATELLITE OFFICE: Panorama City
14418 Chase Street, Suite 203 Panorama City, CA 91402
Tel. (818) 920-1129 • Fax (818) 892-2799

REYES LAW GROUP, APLC, is designated as a Federal Debt Relief Agency by an Act of Congress and the President of the United States, and proudly represents consumers and businesses seeking relief under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.