

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 717



Introduced by Representative Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ADOPTING THE EXPERIMENTAL USE OF AUTOMATED ELECTIONS SYSTEM (AES) IN THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN (SK) ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, in the recently concluded May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) lauded that it was the election with the fastest results and highest voter turnout since the Philippines adopted the Automated Election System (AES) in 2010;

WHEREAS, in the said 2022 Elections, 55,290,821 Filipinos voted out of the 65,745,526 number of registered voters or 84.10% voter turnout, in 106,174 clustered precincts across the country;

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2022, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. signed Republic Act (RA) No. 11935 postponing the Barangay and SK elections scheduled on December 5, 2022, moving the next elections to the last Monday of October 2023 (October 30, 2023) and succeeding elections every three years thereafter;

WHEREAS, as of October 2022, there are 42,022 barangays in the country, each of which has one (1) Punong Barangay and seven (7) Sangguniang Barangay Members, one (1) SK Chairperson and seven (7) SK Members;

WHEREAS, COMELEC owned the 97,000 refurbished vote-counting machines (VCMs) it purchased in 2016 and leased additional VCMs which was used in the conduct of the 2022 elections;

WHEREAS, pursuant to RA No. 8436 and RA No. 9369, AES was utilized in the 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022 National and Local Elections, thus, Filipino voters are well-versed in using the same to cast their votes;

WHEREAS, the adoption of AES in the Barangay and SK elections will result into faster results and proclamation of winners, and prevent human intervention or error and confusion in the appreciation of ballot;

WHEREAS, automated elections have proven to be economical as it can accommodate up to more 1,000 voters per clustered precincts as opposed to the 500 voters per precincts in manual elections which entails hiring more personnel in manual elections;

WHEREAS, since there will be two (2) ballots for the Barangay and SK elections (one for regular voters aged 18 and above and another one for SK voters aged 15 up to 30), the existing VCMs can be refurbished and modified to accept two (2) ballots from a single voter who qualifies to vote in both Barangay and SK elections;

WHEREAS, historically, manual elections encounter numerous problems including the inaccurate counting, interpretation and appreciation of ballots, among others, and the consolidation of votes in bigger Barangays usually take 2-3 days unlike in automated elections which immediately transmit the results to the canvassing center upon closing of the voting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, directing the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the viability and feasibility of adopting the experimental use of Automated Elections System (AES) in the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Elections.

Adopted,



ATTY. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.
Representative
Lone District of the City of Dasmariñas
Province of Cavite