



COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Intramuros, Manila 1002

MEMORANDUM TO : **DIRECTOR ADOLFO A. IBANEZ**
 Regional Election Director – Region VIII
 187 P. Zamora St., Tacloban City, Leyte 6500

SUBJECT : **As stated.**

DATE : **27 March 2006.**

This pertains to your memorandum dated March 24, 2006 requesting for opinion "on whether or not our Election Officers and other field personnel concerned can validly verify the signatures of voters in their respective areas seeking to propose amendments to the existing Constitution".

Quoted hereunder for your information and guidance is the pertinent portion of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Santiago vs. Comelec, G.R. No. 127325, March 19, 1997, where the High Court held that, to wit:

"The COMELEC acquires jurisdiction over a petition for initiative only after its filing. The petition then is the initiatory pleading. Nothing before its filing is cognizable by the COMELEC, sitting en banc. **The only participation of the COMELEC or its personnel before the filing of such petition are** (1) to prescribe the form of the petition; (2) to issue through its Election Records and Statistics Office a certificate on the total number of registered voters in each legislative district; (3) to assist, through its election registrars, in the establishment of signature stations; and (4) **to verify, through its election registrars, the signatures on the basis of the registry list of voters, voter's identification cards used in the immediately preceding election.**"

I hope that this sufficiently answer your query in the matter.

Alioden D. Dalais
ATTY. ALIODEN D. DALAIS
 Director IV, Law Department

Copy furnished:

THE CHAIRMAN
 ALL COMMISSIONERS
 THE SENIOR STAFF
 ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ADD: joy (Memo 2006)

3 *March 27, 2006*
3 *2/27/06*
3 *March 27, 2006*

4) RECEIVED BY *ASZ*