

20 June 2011

MS. KAROL ANNE M. ILAGAN

Research Director

Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

RE : Statement of Election Contributions and Expenditures
(SECE)

Ms. Ilagan:

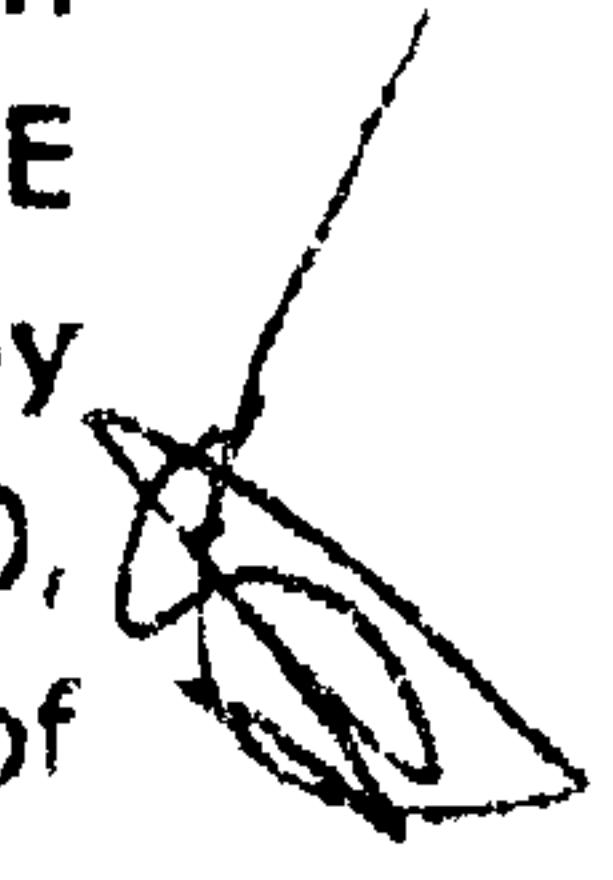
This is with reference to your letter dated 13 June 2011 inquiring about the abovesaid matter.

Firstly, it is on record that on 09 June 2010, Bangon Pilipinas Party (Bangon Party) has submitted its Statement of Election Contributions and Expenditures (SECE) with all its attachments.

After submitting the said SECE, the Law Department of Commission on Elections (COMELEC) advised Bangon Party that each candidate must file separate SECE. Insofar as the undersigned's recollection is concerned, the advice was initially made through telephone by the Law Department. While there maybe a letter sent by COMELEC after 09 June 2010, we are certain that the tenor of the letter was also an advice that the candidate/s concerned did not file his/her SECE, without making it clear that the SECE filed by Bangon Party in its own behalf and in behalf of the rest of the candidates is not sufficient.

Be that as it may, we have manifested before the Law Department that since Bangon Pilipinas has advised all its supporters to direct all intended contributions for the fund of Bangon Party in the campaign and the elections proper, all expenditures were likewise incurred by Bangon Party. Hence, under such circumstances, each candidate will have nothing to declare as personal contributions and expenses. On the other hand, the candidates were likewise instructed that in the event that they will receive separate contributions and incur separate expenses outside of the Party, they must declare it and file a separate SECE with the COMELEC. After some discussions, the Law Department required us to submit the said explanation in writing. Hence, on 16 July 2010, Bangon Party submitted a letter dated 02 July 2010 signed by the undersigned with the conformity of candidates who did not receive personal contributions nor incurred personal expenses like Bro. Eddie Villarueva, Katherine Inocencio, Adz Nikabulin, Alexander Tinsay and Jesus Paredes. The said letter likewise showed Bangon Party candidates who filed separate report, like Perfecto Yasay, Imelda Papin, Reynaldo Princesa and Isniel Virgines.

After submitting the letter dated 02 July 2010, the Law Department again told us that candidates should submit separate SECE. Again, we explained to COMELEC that it will be difficult to specify which of the funds of Bangon Party was intended as contributions for a particular candidate and it will be equally difficult to determine which of the funds of the Party was spent for a particular candidate so that each candidate can have a report of its own (other than those who already filed a separate SECE). After all, in no case will the candidates who were funded wholly by the Party's funds exceed their respective spending limits (as candidates) because definitely they will only spend within the allocated Party funds, which is lesser than the limit imposed by law COMELEC, then said that if such was really the case, then each candidate must at least submit the verified one-page form of SECE adopting the SECE of Bangon Party and attach the documents submitted by Bangon Party, including the letter of 02 July 2010. Hence, on 23 July 2010, Bro. Eddie complied with the said directive. The other national candidates of Bangon Party were likewise informed and instructed of the said directive from the COMELEC.

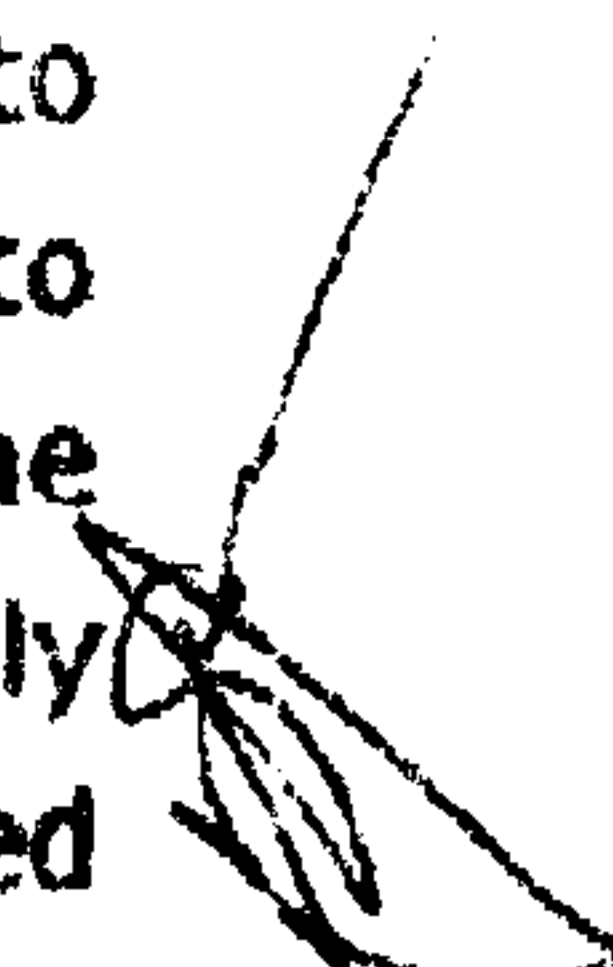


Thereafter, we have not heard of anything from the COMELEC anymore hence we presumed that they have finally considered our submissions as substantial compliance with the requirements, until your letter dated 13 June 2011, which came as a surprise.

As to your inquiries, and as we have already manifested before the COMELEC, there were candidates of Bangon Party who were wholly funded by the Party hence, they adopted the SECE of the Party. This is quite unusual but this is not the first time that Bangon Party has changed the traditional way of doing the election (campaign) practices. In 2004 (and even in 2010), it has been a public knowledge that supporters of Bangon Party (and supporters of Bro. Eddie in particular) were the ones buying their own election paraphernalia. Supporters took it upon themselves to prepare campaign materials to support the candidacy of Bro. Eddie without taking any single centavo from the candidate nor from the Party. Supporters were the ones who prepared the food for the watchers, printed their own t-shirts, printed their own stickers, tarpaulins and others. As such, the Party and even Bro. Eddie has no record of those expenditures because the same were not reported to the Party and were plain initiatives of those people who want change in this country.

In 2010, when Bangon Party has fielded not only a Presidential candidate in the person of Bro. Eddie, but a Vice-President and a Senatorial line-up, when the Party has sufficiently strengthened its machinery including the financial component thereof, the funds were centralized in order to ensure that all candidates will be given the opportunity to campaign, be known and be voted upon.

Bangon Party has a non-traditional way of participating in the electoral system. As you can see, we have attempted several times to make known to COMELEC how our system goes. We do not want to invent things just to strictly comply with the rules when in reality we have approached the exercise differently. We rather state the truth and explain until it is fully understood that Bangon Party is not a conventional party. We have complied and submit the SECE to the best of our ability and with transparency.

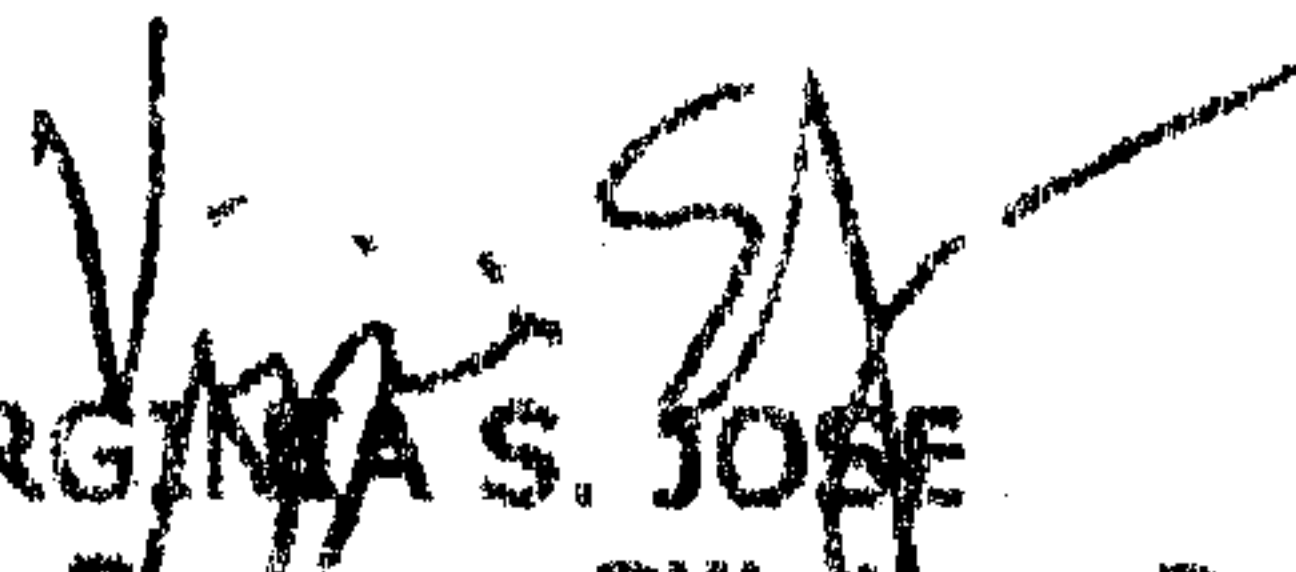


Upon inquiry with the Law Department of COMELEC after we received your letter, we were informed that they did not issue further notice/s anymore of the fact that they did not consider our submissions as compliance with the rules. They said that a Resolution is being prepared that will cite those who did not submit their SECE. That being the case, we are not in the position to further submit anything because they did not notify us. However, should COMELEC find it necessary, we shall still comply with any further directives from them and we shall make available all documents relative to this matter.

We hope we have clarified the matter at hand and we fervently pray that with these you will be able to support our advocacy for truth, justice and righteousness which has been the principle we are espousing at Bangon Pilipinas Party.

Thank you and God bless in all your endeavors.

Yours Truly,


VIRGINIA S. JOSE
For Bangon Pilipinas Party and
For Bro. Eddie Villanueva