

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

MEMORANDUM –

TO : **THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTORS**
Regions II, III, and V

SUBJECT : **As stated**

DATE : **30 March 2006**

This pertains to the 27 March 2006 Memorandum of Atty. Alioden D. Dalaig, Director IV, Law Department, relative to the query of Atty. Adolfo A. Ibañez, Regional Election Director, Region VIII, 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.” Therein quoted, in response to said inquiry, is the following passage from the decision of the Supreme Court in *Santiago vs. COMELEC*, G.R. No. 127325, 19 March 1997, 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 of voters, voters’ affidavits, and voters’ identification cards used in the immediately preceding election.”

The above-quoted decision allows the Commission to verify the signatures of registered voters as it is one of its functions as an administrative body.

In view of the foregoing, all field officers, upon request, are hereby authorized to do the following:

- 1. Issue a certification as to the total number of registered voters in each legislative district;**
- 2. assist interested parties in the establishment of signature stations;**
- 3. verify the signatures on the basis of the registry list of voters, voters' affidavits and voters' identification cards used in the immediately preceding election.**

For dissemination and strict compliance.

(SGD) ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commission-in-Charge
Regions II, III and V