

JOINT STATEMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES and CITIZENS' GROUPS on the SOURCE CODE REVIEW as SCHEDULED BY COMELEC

We, the undersigned political parties and citizens' groups, have chosen NOT to participate in the "source code review" as scheduled by Comelec to comply with Section 14 of RA 8436, as amended by Section 12 of RA 9369, for the following interrelated reasons:

1. The guidelines set by Comelec for the review by interested political parties and groups impose restrictive conditions that will make the exercise so impractical as to limit it to a "walkthrough" of the source codes. In comparison, SysTest Labs had a much greater latitude for the contracted "source code review" it performed as it did not have to work under the same restrictions now being imposed by Comelec.
2. With just two-and-half months before election day, not much time is left to do a proper and thorough review if ever a real source code is done as requested by other parties and groups. SysTest Labs was allowed four months for the assignment with full compensation for its services sans the restrictions and controls now being imposed on the "review" to be done by interested political parties and groups.

We call on the Comelec to release the source codes without further delay and allow a real source code review to be conducted under the same guidelines and conditions given to SysTest Labs, by the Filipino IT code reviewers of interested political parties and groups who, as the law provides, "may conduct their own review" "once an AES technology is selected for implementation".




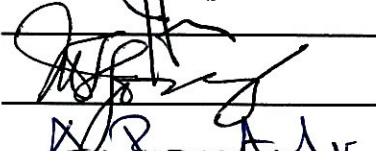
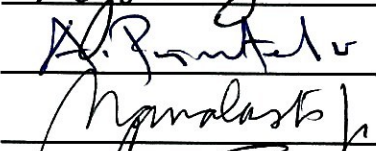
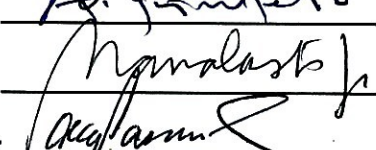
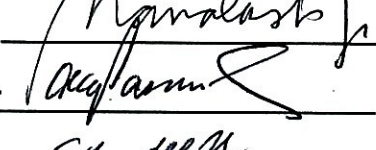
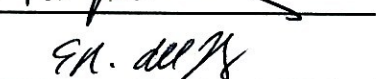
Let us not forget that the review in question relates to the Philippine Electoral System in which at stake are the Filipino people's own basic rights as guaranteed by the Philippine Constitution.

A "walkthrough" – which is never mentioned in the law – is entirely different from a source code review. Comelec's source code "walkthrough" will not help erase public doubts cast on the integrity of the automated election system arising from the lack of a real source code review by interested parties or citizens' groups and will likely lead to questionable election results.

We take this stand not as an endorsement of any move for a return to the manual election system but as an exception to Comelec's restrictions on the source code review, a key safeguard for the poll automation. We will continue to monitor with critical eyes the remaining steps in the preparation for the automated elections even as we call on the Filipino people to be more vigilant and to be always protective of their voters' rights in the coming elections.

We also call on other political parties and interested groups who have similar concerns about the lack of a real source code review to come out with their own public statement.

Signed this 19th day of February 2010.

| Political Party / Citizens' Group | Representative | Signature |
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| <u>PDP LABAN</u> | <u>Koko Pimentel</u> |  |
| <u>CenPEG</u> | <u>PABLO MANALASTAS</u> |  |
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