

In recent weeks, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) has been dragged into the fray between Comelec and the TNT Trio headed by former Secretary Eliseo Rio.  The Group has questioned the accuracy of the results of the election based on inconsistencies in the transmission of the results between the Transparency Server and the Comelec’s Central Server and the “impossible” speed with which the results were received by the Transparency Server, insinuating the existence of some anomaly in the 2022 elections.

In the interest of truth and in defense of the thousands of PPCRV volunteers who gave time and resources to help ensure and verify the credibility of our elections, we feel it our responsibility to refute the allegations alluded to PPCRV’s role in allegedly conditioning the public’s mind on the results of the election.

There is the statement that the Transparency server is the PPCRV Server.  To clarify, the Transparency server is owned and fully controlled by the COMELEC.  COMELEC has full administrative and managerial control over this server, and no one else. The reports transmitted to the Transparency Server are distributed among accredited parties and organizations such as political parties, media, NAMFREL, PPCRV.  To imply that PPCRV has control over the Transparency Server is a complete fallacy.  PPCRV is a recipient, one of several accredited recipients, of raw data transmitted by COMELEC through the Transparency Server.    Every recipient of these results can compare what the other gets and it is a fact that all accredited recipients connected to the Transparency Server received the same data dump, with no discrepancy.

What PPCRV and other accredited recipients do is to translate the raw data or data dump  into reader friendly format so the public can understand the numeric results.  PPCRV, together with media, then announces and publishes these in real time.  It is noteworthy that PPCRV, along with all accredited parties connected to the Transparency Server, translated the raw data into numeric results which were consistent across all parties.  This consistency is a further layer of verification of the raw data received and translated by all accredited parties.

The speed in the transmission of the results to the Transparency server has also been questioned, claiming that it is impossible to so quickly transmit the results soon after the polls are declared close.  True, the ERs need to be generated after the polls close and before transmission to the Transparency Server is initiated.  Physical copies of the ERs likewise need to be printed.   This process, unless there are problems encountered, takes a few minutes; and while some precincts had issues, most successfully printed the ERs and transmitted these soon after.  Furthermore, the transmission to the Transparency and Central Servers happened simultaneously, further enhancing facilitation and speed of transmission.  Doubts regarding the speed of transmission   can be resolved by checking the transmission logs and comparing them to the time-stamped ERs received through the Transparency Server.

The other issue brought up by TNT Trio is the consistent ratio of the votes as they were transmitted to the servers. Perusal and analysis of the source document / data dump will show that the ratios per precinct vary from one precinct to another.  This holds true for all candidates’ results.   But as the votes are transmitted from different regions in big numbers, the ratios will start to round off and reflect the national average.  This issue on vote ratio is not new.  It has been questioned in past elections and PPCRV, along with Ateneo, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines have conducted extensive analysis, with results shared with the public. The statistical analysis of the TS data did not detect irregularities.  “The relatively consistent distribution of votes may be expected to closely mirror the national vote given the random pattern of receipt of the transmitted result.”

PPCRV, under its mandate from COMELEC, is also responsible for counterchecking the electronically transmitted results generated by the Transparency Server against the pre-transmission printouts of the Election Returns /ERs collected by PPCRV volunteers, not COMELEC as claimed, around the country.  This is known as the Unofficial Parallel Count.  PPVRV volunteers patiently collected pre-transmission printouts of ERs from polling precincts nationwide.  These printouts were then sent to the PPCRV Command Center in UST where even more PPCRV volunteers  manually tabulated the results from the printouts of the pre-transmission ERs.  These manual tabulations, religiously performed by PPCRV volunteers were then bashed and compared against the electronically transmitted results from the COMELEC-controlled and owned Transparency Server. PPCRV’s Unofficial Parallel Count  showed that 99.84% of the data from the 2 sources matched.  Mismatches have been sent by PPCRV to COMELEC for resolution and clarification. Citing other sources, the Random Manual Audit/ RMA, an independent audit by Lente, PICPA and NAMFREL yielded 99.932% match rate.

Secretary Rio also raised concerns regarding   the timing  of peak transmissions, alleging that PPCRV’s count peaked one hour after the polls closed while COMELEC’s peak happened two hours after  polls closed.  The Secretary claimed that this information came from COMELEC Chairman Garcia’s report in the Participate PH Forum.  This can be  verified with facility by referring to the transmission logs from COMELEC.  We understand that the request for access to transmission logs has been made and even elevated to the Supreme Court.  As such, any conclusion made now, without first checking the transmission logs, is not based on factual data but on inference.  PPCRV is one with Caritas in urging the Supreme Court to heed the request of Secretary Rio to access the transmission logs in order to put this contentious issue to rest.

PPCRV volunteers nationwide  exercised their duties with diligence, passion and nationhood.  They do not deserve the insinuations that smear their reputation and integrity after they voluntarily and wholeheartedly offered their time, effort, resources to help ensure CHAMP /Clean, Honest, Accurate, Meaningful, Peaceful elections. Their dedication to God and country motivates their exemplary and sincere volunteerism, with no expectation of reward nor recognition.  We are grateful to each of our hundreds of thousands of volunteers, each one of them performing the essential task of ensuring that democracy and veracity prevail.

PPCRV is in consonance with and throws its support behind the statements issued by CBCP and Caritas.

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