

REP. PUENTEVELLA. (Continuing) ... waste our time like yours. We know you're very busy yourself. But please make sure when you talk. Correct them.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Yes po.

REP. PUENTEVELLA. Because if not corrected, we're the ones here who look like fools as what Mr. Locsin was saying yesterday.

MR. LARRAZABAL. No, no po.

REP. PUENTEVELLA. We're made a mockery here...

MR. LARRAZABAL. No po.

REP. PUENTEVELLA. ...that enough is enough. So you don't want this to be continued. That's the impression up there.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Ah, no po. I think...

REP. PUENTEVELLA. That's why, that's why, and I know. But you have to correct yourself.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Opo.

REP. PUENTEVELLA. Or else kami ang kawawa dito.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Opo. And I agree with you, Congressman Puentevella. And the statement was regarding...the context was regarding some groups who jumped on the bandwagon and made, again, insidious statements not, not anyway dealing with the affairs of the House of Representatives. And, again, the statements we made...I made personally was that I emphasized that the hearings at the House of Representatives is very, very important. And we have to move a lot of our work because we have to prioritize and our priority now is to answer questions in this hearings, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Chair, Mr. Chair, just one statement because...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Congressman Abante.

REP. ABANTE. You know you mentioned...you made mention about Koala Bear. Now, of course, I understand why you ought to be the spokesman of the Commissioner because you're the most good looking, anyway. But, Mr. Chair, when it comes to the Koala Bear, I think it is the COMELEC that should investigate that because that's one of their people. It's not ours. For them to make any statement that it is something wishy-washy or something that ought not to be made serious, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, I just wanna say...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Your Honor, it has not been established...

REP. ABANTE. ...I just wanna say...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Excuse me, it has not been established who that person is and the fact that he masked himself, I think it's just proper that he should unmask himself in the process.

In the meantime, I think it's three o'clock in the afternoon. And I would like to direct the Secretary that all questions and records directed to the Commissioners be placed in writing so they'll be more prepared to answer these questions by Monday.

In the meantime, I think the statements...

REP. RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. I was listening intently...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair...the Chair will please finish. With the statement of the Commissioner stating that he has respect to the investigation being conducted by the House and that is correcting his statement, that is on record. And I think the statement, as previously stated, is now being corrected.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Yes, Your Honor. And again, I would like to emphasize that the proceedings in the House of Representatives are very important. The statement was made in the context of some individuals jumping on the bandwagon. And this actually gives, you know, we have to focus on what's important. And what's important is we have to answer your questions in this Committee. And that's what we're doing po.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. No need for further explanations. It's very clear already.

Yes, the Honorable Rodriguez.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was really listening intently to former Congressman Ruy Lopez who ran in Davao City and his allegations should be answered. Very serious. That there was no statement of votes printed and yet there were proclamations done in Davao City. May we know how can that...that happen in cases of proclamation even without statement of votes? How can the candidates be able to check the election returns with the SOV on whether the consolidation of these votes will come out with the true results, for example, in Davao City? May we know why in Davao City no statement of votes were printed?

MR. LARRAZABAL. We will check that, Your Honor. We will...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. You will check it when it's already a...a candidate who already said that even up to now, many, many days after the election, there had been proclamation in Davao City, but then no statement of votes. How can there be a proclamation without statement of votes? Because in Cagayan De Oro, we have to wait for the statement of votes. It's as strict as this. And the statement of votes in Cagayan were finished in three days after the voting and we were proclaimed. But in Davao, how can there be proclamation when there is no statement of votes printed?

Are you sure that in all of these canvassing units, Davao City, statement under oath, this is not only hearsay, here is a candidate who has given his testimony under oath and he says even up to now there is no statement of votes but there has been proclamation.

REP. ROMUALDO. Is that true, Mr. Tolentino, is that true?

MR. JOSE M. TOLENTINO (Executive Director, Commission on Elections). I have to...just like what Commissioner Larrazabal said, I'll have to check with the Election Officer of Davao City.

REP. DELA CRUZ. But the question, Mr. Chairman, is it true that there have been proclamations?

MR. TOLENTINO. I mean, we have to find out.

REP. DELA CRUZ. Were there proclamations?

REP. CHONG. Mr. Chair, the same thing for Biliran. We had a proclamation without the statement of votes. We were shown only a consolidated total on the screen. And they proclaimed the...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Without any written statement of votes?

REP. CHONG. Without any written statement of votes and just the screen and a consolidated total. For Biliran, it's the same thing.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, it's very clear that in the COMELEC resolution itself, there can be no proclamation without statement of votes. And that is why in Cagayan De Oro, I was insisting for proclamation, there were few precincts not yet counted and they said we have a 100%. And we waited for the SOV. And then we had the proclamation. But in this case, there are now two provinces, where there...a city and one province where there has been proclamations without SOVs. How can that be transparent? How can the candidates check on whether they got the proper

votes by comparing the election returns with the statement of votes per precinct? May we know, Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the COMELEC ready to give an answer right now?

MR. TOLENTINO. Yes, Your Honor. The basis for the proclamation is the Certificate of Canvass. And the statement of votes would be the supporting document. The statement of votes, Your Honor, would just reflect the election returns that were received by the CCS. So if you have copies of the election returns as you claimed, then you could start your own addition and come up with the results of the Certificate of Canvass and proclamation.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, that will not be true. I witnessed the canvassing in Cagayan De Oro. There can be no printing of Certificate of Canvass, which is the basis of proclamation, without statements of votes. We have to wait a long, long time, how many hours, because, it's as strict as that, because all clustered precincts have to be in place and be able to be placed in the statement of votes. And from the statement of votes, the total of that precisely would result to a Certificate of Canvass, Mr. Tolentino. So there can be no proclamation without the Statement of Votes. The question is, in Davao City there has been proclamation without statement of votes, including Biliran, that is the question.

MR. TOLENTINO. That's why I stated earlier, Your Honor, that we'll have to check because I only learned of it now.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON. Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Chairman, in fairness to the COMELEC also, that certificate of votes can be made based on the election returns already transmitted. So, the votes per clustered precincts are already reflected in the canvass, although the supporting papers are not yet there because voluminous records. They have to make, I think, eight copies of that. So the certificate has been prepared based on the election returns but the election returns could not be produced in its entirety because they were still printing for some more copies. And I think that is what happened. Because that's what happened to my province also.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Chair, I just would like to ask...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Again, we'd like to state that we're supposed to adjourn at 3:00 pm. It's past 3:00...

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Chairman.

REP. DELA CRUZ. Before we adjourn, can I just request for the COMELEC's answer to our request for housekeeping because we wanted to have a... When are we going to have this inventory of all of these things including a request that we made earlier about their subcontractors for various phases of their activities? Because I understand, for example, and may I reiterate this, that in Rizal and in Region IV, the subcontractor for the IT technicians, Mr. Chairman, was a company that was...that's owned or is controlled by Mr. Atong Ang. We want to find out if this is true. That is why we want to know, we want to know who are the subcontractors for their IT technicians because let us stop blaming the BEIs, the teachers. They have always been blamed. Let us not blame the teachers because the teachers were under the mercy of the technicians of Smartmatic. That's why we want to find out who are these subcontractors of Smartmatic in various regions, provinces, cities in the country. Because if it is true that Rizal and Region IV was under a company controlled by Mr. Atong, we want to know whether Mr. Atong Ang was qualified to be an IT expert. That's what we want to know.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. I guess there are several questions that everybody would like to ask.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So we're holding another meeting by 9:00 am, Monday.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. And I would to like say that the COMELEC has taken cognizance of all these questions together with the Smartmatic. And we hope that you can come up with an answer by Monday at 9:00 am.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Chairman.

REP. MITRA. Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. For last comment, may I ask...

REP. BIAZON. Just a quick comment, Mr. Chairman.

REP. MITRA. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Congressman Mitra would like to say something.

REP. MITRA. I'd like to make a reservation for Monday because I'm not at all satisfied with the answers by the Commissioner earlier...

(MS. AMELITA C. VALENCIA TOOK OVER)