



# Philippine Medical Association

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## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO: 2018-03-09-046

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TO: ALL COMPONENT SOCIETY LOCAL COMELEC  
RE: PMA National and Local Elections- March 11, 2018  
Date: March 9, 2018

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In view of the clamor of some sectors to field poll watchers in certain precincts during the conduct of the local and national elections, and of the queries received by this commission on the guidelines, please be guided by the following:

1. Our Election Code provides in clear and unequivocal terms that the poll watchers in the local component societies shall be approved by the Local COMELEC, to wit:

***"Section 3. Poll Watchers. Each candidate may nominate one poll watcher for the elections held at each of the component societies, and one for the tallying by the National COMELEC. The poll watcher in the component society shall be approved by the local Comelec while the watcher in the tallying by the National COMELEC shall be approved by the National COMELEC prior to their assuming their function."***

2. An approved watcher may be allowed to observe and watch the conduct of the election, without doing any other act that would otherwise disrupt the election process.

3. The Local COMELEC is given a wide latitude to strictly implement our procedural process in the conduct of the election at the local precincts.

4. The provision of the country's National Election Code comes in aid in a suppletory character only.

Please be guided accordingly.

For the Commission;

ATTY. EMMANUEL D. LOYOLA, MD  
Chairman, PMA National COMELEC