



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL
COA-NCR Bldg., Batasan Road, Quezon City

FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO,
Protestant,

SET Case No. 001-16

-versus-

LEILA M. DE LIMA,
Protestee.

X-----X

RESOLUTION NO. 16-68

The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET), in a letter dated 28 September 2017, requests authority or clearance from the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) to decrypt and print the picture images of the ballots in the electoral precincts enumerated in the HRET letter dated 08 May 2017.

It would do well to remember that except for the Province of Tawi-Tawi, all the other electoral precincts enumerated in the HRET letter dated 08 May 2017 are not covered by the SET preservation order. Clearance from SET is, therefore, unnecessary for the HRET to proceed with the decryption and printing of the picture images of the ballots with respect thereto.

As to the electoral precincts pertaining to the Province of Tawi-Tawi involved in HRET Case No. 16-007 (*Ajihil vs. Sahili*), two (2) clustered precincts are included in the pilot precincts of Protestant Tolentino, namely: Clustered Precinct No. 18 (Grouped Precinct Nos. 43A, 44A, 44B) of the Municipality of

Panglima Sugala (Balimbing); and Clustered Precinct No. 4 (Grouped Precinct Nos. 8A, 8B) of the Municipality of Turtle Islands.

The following electoral precincts are likewise protested in the instant case but do not form part of the Protestant's pilot precincts:

Municipality	Precinct ID Nos.	Clustered Precinct Nos.
South Ubian	70060007	13A, 14A
	70060009	16A, 17A
	70060028	53A
Languyan	70090006	10A
	70090022	37A
Sapa Sapa	70100018	35A

Thus, for the aforesaid clustered precincts of the Province of Tawi-Tawi, the requested authority to decrypt and print the picture images of the ballots may be granted by SET, subject to the following conditions:

1. The HRET shall give SET and the parties in the instant electoral protest prior notice of the decryption activity; and
2. The parties shall be allowed to observe the decryption and printing of the picture images of the ballots.

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Committee of the Tribunal Resolves to **GRANT** the request of the HRET for authority or clearance to decrypt and print the picture images of the ballots pertaining to the above-enumerated clustered precincts of the Province of Tawi-Tawi for its use in connection with HRET Case No. 16-007 (*Ajihil vs. Sahili*), *provided, however*, that SET and the parties in the instant election protest shall be given prior notice of the decryption activity;

provided, further, that the parties shall be allowed to observe the decryption and printing of the picture images of the ballots.

SO ORDERED.

11 October 2017



ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Senior Associate Justice
Chairperson



TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO
Associate Justice
Member



LUCAS P. BERSAMIN
Associate Justice
Member