

Beyond campaign promises:

Following the money in politics

Why monitor campaign finance

- A candidate's capacity to run for office is **largely hinged on their access to funds.**
- Campaign finance has value beyond the context of elections — it is also an **anti-corruption and good governance activity more than it is an election activity.**

Brief history: campaign finance reporting in PH

2007: Pera at Pulitika (PAP) (Money and Politics) Consortium

The group held public events during the campaign, highlighting the huge advertising spending by candidates.

From CFU to CFO: Comelec steps up

Comelec embarked on a massive training of all its field officers for them to better understand their role in the campaign-finance regulation work.

The CFU would later become the Campaign Finance Office (CFO).

Campaign finance reporting today

Campaign conduct in the last two presidential elections topped the list of themes covered by the news media.



May 2022 elections: key questions

- What is the face of campaign finance during a pandemic?
- Where will campaign money go now that candidates are limited from doing in-person activities?



Avenues for monitoring campaign finance

Before campaign period

- Pre-campaign activities
- Social media advertising
- Use of government resources

During campaign period

- Use of government resources
- Use of own money

After elections

- Donors
- Overspenders
- SOCE non-filers
- Excess donations
- Violations
- Government contracts
- Appointments

Recommendations

Open and timely access to information

Periodic reporting of SOCEs

Repositories must release SALN

Candidates to voluntarily disclose their SALNs

Strengthening the CFO

Comelec could also engage with other institutions of accountability like the BIR, COA and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Recommendations

Covering elections as a policy theme

Linking elections with other beats such as business and finance, accountability, corruption or local reporting.

Sustaining coverage beyond elections

Forging and sustaining collaboration between and among elections watchdog and news media

PAP consortium 2.0

Thank you.

For any question about this presentation,
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