

Lamitan City election officer Wilfredo Daraug has favorably recommended the holding of a recall election for the position of vice-mayor of Lamitan City in the province of Basilan.

Daraug's recommendation came after his office has found out that the recall petition filed against Lamitan City Vice-Mayor Arleigh Eisma has sufficiently complied the requirements set forth by Republic Act 7160 as amended by R.A. 9244 and Commission on Election (Comelec) Resolution no. 7505.

Twenty percent of the total number of registered voters of a particular place are needed to sign a petition to recall an elected official as stipulated under Republic Act 9244 and Comelec Resolution 7505.

In the case of Lamitan City, a total of 12,080 registered voters representing more than 27 percent of the 43,611 voting population of the city have signed the petition for recall against Eisma "on the ground of loss of confidence."

The petitioners headed by Bulanting Barangay Chairman Asbi Ramirez Alkie filed the recall petition last February 22 before the office of Daraug.

"The petition sufficiently complied the requirements set forth by R.A. 7160 as amended by R.A. 9244 and Comelec Resolution No. 7505 considering that the signatures and thumb mark of the petitioners and his co-petitioners were properly verified and found to be authentic signatures," Daraug said in his recommendation.

"In view of the manifested desire of the more than 20 percent of the registered voters and with all the reglamentary requirements duly submitted and transmitted herewith, the undersigned recommends that a recall election for the local elective position of city vice-mayor be set forth and conducted in Lamitan City," Daraug added.

Alkie said they have lost confidence on Eisma due to the officials' lack of cooperation to develop Lamitan City, which has just gained the cityhood status last year.

Alkie said Eisma has blocked the implementation of several tangible projects of Lamitan City government that include the construction of an infirmary hospital, which will benefit the Lamiteños.

The vice mayor also blocked the construction of five Madaris in the Muslim-dominated barangays of Lamitan City, Alkie said.