



PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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PHILIPPINE EMBASSY SETS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF OVERSEAS VOTING IN KUWAIT ON LABOR DAY

01 May 2019 – The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has announced during the commemoration of the Philippine Labor day and after almost three (3) weeks since the start of Overseas Voting last 13 April 2019 that voter turnout has exceeded the eight thousand (8,000) mark, or a total of 8,516 votes. The 2019 current voter-turnout has set a new milestone in Kuwait's overseas voting history, as it surpassed the voter-turnout in the 2007 (2,517) and 2013 (3,203) Senatorial and Party-list Elections. Carrying the momentum from the past 2016 Presidential elections, the Embassy's current figures even surpassed the voter-turnout in the 2010 (5,259) Presidential Elections, debunking the notion that a Mid-term election draws less interest from Filipinos in Kuwait.



The Embassy had a flag raising ceremony where the message of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, was delivered by Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendosina N. Lomondot. The ceremony was attended by various Filipino organizations, media partners, bloggers/vloggers, as well as Filipinos who came to the Embassy to vote.

During the ceremony, Ms. Russell Grace A. Ocampo reminded everyone present that overseas voting will still take place from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. even on a holiday and encouraged everyone to participate.

Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Lomondot has further informed the audience that COMELEC Commissioner Ma. Rowena Amelia V. Guanzon has acknowledged the Embassy's efforts in breaching the 8,000 mark. The event was then followed by the "Almusal ng Bayan" where everyone was invited.

"This day, I join all Filipino workers here in Kuwait, in the Philippines and around the globe as we mark Labor Day. I commend them for their invaluable contributions to the Philippine economy thru their remittances to their families back home. A true sense of economic empowerment." said Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendosina N. Lomondot.

"And as we can see, Filipinos come in droves to exercise their right of suffrage. They are clearly taking advantage of this chance to be politically empowered, for them to choose who will manage their invaluable economic contributions to the Philippines and also who will build and lead our country in the years to come. At the current pace of overseas voting in Kuwait, we have already surpassed the 2007 and 2013 Senatorial and Party-List Elections and the 2010 Presidential elections. This is clear proof of our democratic maturity and patriotism of Filipinos in Kuwait. We are also bound to surpass voter-turnout in the 2004 Presidential Elections, debunking the notion that a Mid-term election draws less interest from Filipinos here in Kuwait." Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Lomondot added.



The Embassy continues to intensify its overseas voting omni-media campaign, utilizing all possible platforms and avenues to disseminate overseas voting information to continually increase the number of Filipinos exercising their right of suffrage.



In a tweet, DFA Secretary, Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. acknowledged the efforts and sacrifices of all Foreign Service Posts abroad that are conducting overseas voting and tweeted: *“My gratitude is boundless”* DFA Secretary Locsin was the principal author of the Overseas Voting Act and also its chief proponent in Congress.



The Embassy’s COMELEC-deputized officers and staff continues to encourage the voters after casting their ballots to inform their relatives, friends, and loved ones to visit the Embassy and vote. Regular appeal and OV information dissemination to Filipino clients at the Consular Section as well as the Assistance to Nationals Section are being done as part of the OV omni-campaign. Filipino Community and Organizations have also pledged support to the Embassy’s efforts by encouraging their members to go to the Embassy and vote, creating a multiplier effect that increases overseas voting awareness.

The Embassy tapped its media partners, like GMA Network, ABS-CBN’s The Filipino Channel, UNTV, and Kuwait-based Pinoy Arabia and The Morning Talk among others, as well as print media partners like The Times News, The Arab Times, Al Rai Arabic News, and Kuwait Times to further boost overseas voting awareness. Bloggers/vloggers like “OFW si BESS”, “Insignificant World,” etc. have also supported the Embassy’s OV omni-media campaign. Continuous requests for media appearances and interviews have been accommodated by Embassy Officials to invite and encourage more Filipinos in Kuwait to vote.

“Kuwait Phil Embassy estimates 8000 voters have voted, most of them women. Good job Kuwait” COMELEC Commissioner Ma. Rowena Amelia V. Guanzon tweeted.

All over cyberspace via various social networking pages, the Embassy continues to carry DFA-OVS and COMELEC’s battle cry/slogan throughout this election period: *“Let’s strengthen our democracy. It’s our right and duty. LET’S ALL VOTE!” (Patibayin ang ating demokrasya. Ating karapatan at katungkulan. BUMOTO TAYONG LAHAT!).*



The Philippine Embassy will be open for overseas voting everyday, including weekends and holidays, until **12 May 2019 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** and on **13 May 2019 from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.** **END**