



PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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State of Kuwait

THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS IN KUWAIT SHOW SOLIDARITY IN STRENGTHENING PHILIPPINE DEMOCRACY AFTER A WEEK OF OVERSEAS VOTING

20 April 2019 – The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has announced today that after a week since the start of Overseas Voting, last 13 April 2019, voter turnout has bridged the three thousand mark, garnering a total of more than 3,300 votes (as of 20 April 2019).



The high voter turnout is a sign that the patriotic side of Filipinos in Kuwait has been awakened, their eagerness to participate in this electoral exercise further proving this theory. Some Filipinos, rush to the Embassy as early as 6:00 A.M. to cast their votes. The Embassy's COMELEC-deputized personnel always encourage the voters after casting their ballot to inform their relatives, friends and loved ones to visit the Embassy to exercise their right of suffrage.



Before the start of the Overseas Voting, DFA Secretary, Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. appealed to overseas Filipinos around the world in a video statement and said : *“The aim of overseas voting is to return the electoral power to those who give sweat and tears for the security of their families and the progress of our nation. That is only fitting and right. Since then, overseas voting has dictated the country’s political agenda. We need more of you to vote.”* DFA Secretary Locsin was the principal author of the Overseas Voting Act and also its chief proponent in Congress.



The increasing number of Filipinos during the past few days can also be attributed to the Embassy's intensified overseas voting omni-media campaign, where all possible platforms and avenues to disseminate overseas voting information are being utilized. The Embassy tapped its media partners, like GMA Network, ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel, UNTV and Kuwait-based Pinoy Arabia among others, as well as print media partners like The Times News, The Arab Times, and Kuwait Times to further boost overseas voting awareness. Bloggers/vloggers like "OFW si Bes" have also supported the Embassy's OV omni-media campaign. Continuous requests for media appearances and interview have been accommodated by Embassy Officials to invite and encourage more Filipinos in Kuwait to vote. Regular appeal and OV information dissemination to Filipino clients at the Consular Section as well as the Assistance to Nationals Section is being done as part of the OV omni-campaign.

"I appeal to my fellow Kababayans to exercise their right of suffrage. Their enthusiasm in coming to the Embassy as early as 6:00 A.M. to vote is a good sign. This shows the patriotism of Filipinos here in Kuwait, that despite of being miles away from our country, they still want to have a voice and reshape the political landscape of the Philippines." said Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendosina N. Lomondot.



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 every day 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**