



PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Villa 817, Block 1, Street 101, Corner Abdullah Abdulasis, Alhumaidi St., Al Sideeq Area, South Surra State of Kuwait

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY KUWAIT GEARS UP FOR THE UPCOMING 2019 SENATORIAL AND PARTY-LIST ELECTIONS

25 March 2019 – The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has announced today that they have now shifted gears from overseas voter registration mode to overseas voting mode. This follows a successful overseas voter registration period, when the Philippine Embassy Kuwait surpassed its 22-month target and registered more than ninety-six thousand (96,000) Filipino overseas voters. The Embassy’s focus and efforts will now be dedicated to performing its tasks, as mandated by R.A. 10590, the amendatory law of R.A. 9189, which provides a system of overseas absentee voting by qualified Filipino citizens abroad.

Last 18 to 20 March 2019, the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait sent a delegation to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to attend the “Overseas Voting Training for the General Instructions in the Conduct of the Automated Election System (AES) for Purposes of the May 13, 2019 National Elections” which was conducted by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs – Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS). Its aim was to train Foreign Service personnel to perform their respective functions as members of the Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC), Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG), Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI), Canvas Consolidation System (CCS) Operators and Vote Counting Machine (VCM) Operators.



Delegation to the said training includes representatives from the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, the Philippine Embassy in Manama, the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah and the Philippine Labor Office in Al Khobar.



“This intensive three-day training on the General Instructions in the conduct of the Automated Election System (AES), which also includes the operation of the Vote Counting Machines (VCMs), will definitely prepare the Embassy’s Officers and staff to serve better in the upcoming 2019 National Elections, which will allow registered overseas Filipinos in Kuwait to cast their votes for twelve (12) Senators and a party-list representative of their choice.” said Chargé d’ Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendosina N. Lomondot.

On the third training day, participants who constitute the SBEI were given written and hands-on examination, which was administered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) representative, who would subsequently certify them to act and function as mandated by the Overseas Voting (OV) law.



The Embassy is also planning to conduct echo training for the members who did not join the Embassy’s delegation to Riyadh, KSA, as this will also be an opportunity for them to further rehash what they have learned during the OV training.

The Embassy will also intensify its OV omni-media campaign to further encourage registered overseas Filipinos to exercise their right of suffrage and participate in this important electoral exercise. The Embassy will carry DFA-OVS and COMELEC’s battle cry/slogan for 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!)

“Let’s all vote! Let’s not waste this opportunity to choose our leaders. We can vote for 12 Senators and a party-list representative. The Embassy will be ready to assist you. Please check your name at the Certified List of Overseas Voters that is uploaded in our website and social media site” said Third Secretary and Vice Consul Charleson C. Hermosura.



The overseas voting election period starts on 13 April 2019 at 8:00 AM (State of Kuwait time) and will end on 13 May 2019 at 6:00 PM (Philippine standard time). **END**