



PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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State of Kuwait

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EVIDENT AS THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS IN KUWAIT EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE

30 April 2019 – The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has announced today that, after more than two (2) weeks since the start of Overseas Voting, last 13 April 2019, voter turnout has exceeded the seven thousand (7,000) mark, or a total of 7,802 votes as of 30 April 2019.



Out of the 7,802 votes casted in Kuwait, 5,576 votes came from female voters and 2,226 are from male voters. Women empowerment is evident as they want to go the “extra mile” to politically empower themselves to the same or even greater level as men, in the same way that women provide economic empowerment thru their remittances to their family back home. They are clearly taking advantage their chance to choose who will manage their invaluable economic contributions to the Philippines and who will build and lead our country in the years to come.

“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.” said DFA Secretary, Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. in a video statement.

DFA Secretary Locsin was the principal author of the Overseas Voting Act and also its chief proponent in Congress.





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

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, and Kuwait Times to

further boost overseas voting awareness. Bloggers/vloggers like "OFW si Bess" 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.

"An undisputed successful overseas voter registration period, during which we surpassed the 22-month target by facilitating the registration of registered more than ninety-six thousand (96,000) Filipino voters, is a clear proof that our democracy has matured to the level in which the patriotism of Filipinos in Kuwait has awoken. This is evident in long lines at the Embassy premises during the ongoing voting period. Our Kababayans have shown solidarity in having their voice despite being miles away to reshape the political landscape in the Philippines." said Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendsosina N. Lomondot.



The Embassy's COMELEC-deputized officers and staff continues to 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. 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. 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.

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**