



PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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State of Kuwait

FILIPINO PATRIOTS IN KUWAIT BREAKS ALL PAST OVERSEAS VOTER-TURNOUT RECORDS BEFORE THE END OF THE OVERSEAS VOTING DEADLINE

10 May 2019 – The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has announced today that, after four (4) weeks since the start of Overseas Voting last 13 April 2019, voter turnout has breached the thirteen thousand (13,000) mark, or a total of 13,185 votes. The 2019 current voter-turnout has surpassed all past records in Kuwait's overseas voting history, as it exceeded the voter-turnout in the 2007 (2,517) and 2013 (3,203) Senatorial and Party-list Elections. Resounding the impetus from the past 2016 Presidential elections, the Embassy's present figure has also outperformed the voter-turnout in the 2004 (9,805), 2010 (5,259) and 2016 (12,295) Presidential Elections, totally debunking the opinion that a Mid-term election draws less interest from Filipinos in Kuwait.



“As we all witness, Filipinos here in Kuwait come in troops to vote, in order to reshape the political landscape in the Philippines. We have already surpassed the voter turnouts in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016, making this 2019 National Elections the highest ever in the history of overseas voting in Kuwait. Our Kababayans in Kuwait have not only proven their democratic maturity and patriotism but have also debunked the perception that Senatorial and Party-list elections draws less interest from Filipinos in Kuwait.” said Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Mohd. Noordin Pendsosina N. Lomondot.



Kuwait's present overseas voter-turnout can also be attributed to the Embassy's intensified omni-media campaign, utilizing all possible platforms and avenues to disseminate overseas voting information to continually encourage Filipinos to vote at the Embassy. The Embassy's COMELEC-deputized officers and staff continue to encourage the voters after casting their ballots to inform their relatives, friends, and loved ones to visit the Embassy and vote. Regular appeals 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.



In addition Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. Lomondot has appealed to Filipinos in Kuwait in a message that was disseminated through applicable social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) and messaging apps (Facebook Messenger, Viber, WhatsApp, BBM messenger etc.). Filipino Community and Organizations have also pledged support for the Embassy's efforts by encouraging their members to go to the Embassy and vote, creating a multiplier effect that increases overseas voting awareness.



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



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, including weekends and holidays, on **11 May 2019** from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, **12 May 2019** from **8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.** and on **13 May 2019** from **8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.** **END**