



PRESS RELEASE

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PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL – LOS ANGELES TOPPED U.S. POSTS AND PLACED 2ND AROUND THE WORLD IN OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING REGISTRATION

Los Angeles, 3 September 2009 – Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon is pleased to inform the Filipino Community that the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles has topped all Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States and placed second among all posts around the world by registering 13,253 Overseas Absentee Voters (OAV) during the registration period from 1 February to 31 August 2009, in preparation for the national elections scheduled on 10 May 2010.

The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles astronomically exceeded its 402 registrants in 2003 and 265 in 2006, and the total of 667 registrants it recorded from 2003 to 2006. This was according to latest figures released on 3 September 2009 by the Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat headed by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis. The Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong topped all posts around the world by registering 24,573 overseas Filipinos.

According to the OAV Secretariat, a total of 221,671 overseas Filipinos registered in 2009 in all Foreign Service posts, bringing to 592,975 the total number of overseas absentee voters qualified to vote since the OAV Program started in 2003.

For this achievement, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles would like to thank all of the registrants under its jurisdiction for heeding their civic sense of duty to exercise their right of suffrage and help forge our national destiny through a voice in the next elections.

The Consulate General also expressed appreciation for the support of Filipino community organizations and its mass media partners in organizing its various mobile field registrations and in encouraging all *kababayans* to register across the Southwestern United States.

Finally, the outcome of the registration would not have been possible were it not for the unrelenting hard work, determination and innovation of the officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General, who had to sacrifice their week-ends and holidays to bring the overseas voter registration to Filipinos as far as San Diego and Bakersfield in California; Las Vegas in Nevada; Phoenix, Tucson and Chandler in Arizona; Albuquerque in New Mexico; and Dallas and Houston in Texas.

The Consulate General also conducted a public forum, press conference, public information programs on the OAV Registration Program, and held 25 mobile field registrations and even three *Akyat-Barko* sorties to reach the widest possible population of potential voters in its jurisdiction. ###end