



PRESS RELEASE

MJBA-022-2010

PERIOD FOR CASTING OF VOTES BY OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTERS (OAVs)

Los Angeles, 8 April 2010 – For the information of the public, 10 April 2010 marks the commencement of the month-long election period for all qualified Filipino Overseas Absentee Voters (OAVs) worldwide to cast their votes for the 10 May 2010 Elections in the Philippines.

Pursuant to Section 24 of COMELEC Resolution 8750, casting of votes shall begin on 10 April 2010 at 8:00 a.m. (L.A. time) until 10 May 2010 at 6:00 p.m. (Philippine time) or 2:00 a.m. (L.A. time).

Although postal voting is the mode of voting for OAVs in the United States, OAVs could either mail or personally deliver their accomplished ballot to the Consulate.

The Consulate will be open to accept personally delivered ballots on working hours from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. However, due to building management regulations, the Consulate will only be able to open during the first and last weekends, on the following schedule to accept hand-delivered ballots:

10 & 11 April 2010	-	9:00 am until 5:00 pm
8 May 2010	-	9:00 am until 5:00 pm
9 May 2010	-	9:00 am until 2:00 am (10 May 2010)

For this purpose, an **OAV Information No. (213) 587-0758** will be activated, for the duration of the OAV voting period. It will be used by the COMELEC-Deputized Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG) to specifically accept queries on election matters and to accommodate those who wish to hand-deliver their ballots during weekends, especially on Sundays.

To officially mark the start of the voting period on 10 April 2010 and in the spirit of transparency, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles cordially invites the public, especially those who registered as Overseas Absentee Voters (OAVs), on Saturday, 10 April 2010 from 9:00 am until 10:00 am to witness the proceedings of the SBRCG of the Consulate particularly in the assembly and inspection of the ballot receptacles, the formal declaration of the start of the voting period and eventual casting of the first ever ballot for the 2010 May 2010 elections.

All members of the Filipino-American media interested to cover the first day of the election period are likewise invited. ###end