



PRESS RELEASE
MJBA-029-2010

GUIDELINES ON THE COUNTING OF VOTES ON 10 MAY 2010

Los Angeles, 06 May 2010 – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles wishes to inform the members of political parties and the Filipino-American media and the general public of the following guidelines set by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) through the Commission on Overseas Absentee Voting (COAV) to be observed during the counting period for the 10 May 2010 elections:

FOR ACCREDITED POLL WATCHERS

1. Every registered political party, coalition of political parties and every independent candidate shall be entitled to one (1) watcher in every polling places, who should be a registered overseas absentee voter;
2. If there is no sufficient space for all watchers to be accommodated, preference shall be given to the watchers of the dominant majority and dominant minority parties as determined by the COMELEC, one (1) watcher for the accredited citizens' arm, one (1) common watcher for accredited OFW organizations, and one (1) common watcher for the independent parties;
3. The Certified List of Candidates and Party-list participating in the 2010 national elections shall provide information as to who may be allowed to field in their watchers;
4. During the counting hours, the Consulate shall provide a space for watchers giving them an unimpeded view of the proceedings without obstructing the orderly movement of voters in the polling booth. Watchers shall not speak to any member of the Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI), or to any voter, or among themselves, in such manner as would disturb the proceedings of the SBEI.
5. The names of all watchers in each polling precinct or booth shall be recorded in the Minutes of Counting.
6. Since the counting will commence at exactly three o'clock in the morning (10 May) which is before the start of business hours, accredited poll watchers must be at the Consulate not later than 2:30 am and are requested to call the OAV Hotline: (213) 587-0758 to gain access to the building.

FOR THE PUBLIC AND MEMBERS OF THE FIL-AM MEDIA

1. Members of the Fil-Am media are invited to cover the proceedings.
2. Interested parties are requested to send a letter request with a copy of a valid ID addressed to the Consul General by fax at (213) 639-0990 not later than 7 May 2010
3. Since the counting will commence at exactly three o'clock in the morning (10 May) which is before the start of business hours, interested parties must be at

the Consulate not later than 2:30 am and are requested to call the OAV Hotline: (213) 587-0758 to gain access to the building.

ACCEPTANCE OF BALLOTS

Please be reminded that ballots must be received by the Consulate not later than 3:00 o'clock in the morning of 10 May 2010 (6 pm – Philippine time). To accommodate those who wish to deliver their ballots personally, the Consulate will be open on the following schedule. Voters are requested to call the OAV Hotline (213) 587-0758 to gain access inside the Consulate polling place:

- Saturday, 8 May 2010 – from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
- Sunday, 9 May 2010 – from 9:00 am until 12:00 am
- Monday, 10 May 2010 – from 12:00 am until 3:00 am

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