



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Public Advisory No. 03-2019

Application for Accreditation of Filipino Community, NGO or Civil Society Organizations and Media Representatives for Overseas Voting

Chicago, 26 February 2019 - The Philippine Consulate General is now accepting applications for accreditation of Filipino Community organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Mass Media Representatives with respect to the upcoming conduct of Overseas Voting for the May 13, 2019 National Elections.

Guidelines for accreditation and rules of conduct to be observed by duly accredited organizations and media representatives are available in the websites of the Commission on Elections (www.comelec.gov.ph) and the Philippine Consulate General (www.chicagopcg.dfa.gov.ph).

COMELEC Resolution No. 10498 states that interested media representatives shall be required to submit an Accreditation Application Form; two recently taken 2"x2" colored photos; and an endorsement from the newspaper, television, radio station or internet news agency employing the applicant.

In turn, COMELEC Resolution No. 10499 provides for the requirements for accreditation of Filipino community, NGO and civil society organizations, including a duly accomplished Accreditation Application Form; list of officers and members with their addresses and contact numbers; and photocopies of valid IDs of officers and members of said organizations.

The period for filing of applications for accreditation shall be from 15 February to 31 March 2019. This period shall be non-extendible. The application for accreditation forms may be downloaded from the COMELEC and Chicago PCG websites.

In the meantime, the Office for Overseas Voting under COMELEC has put up a Facebook page to address all queries and concerns from the public regarding overseas voting. The page name is **Office for Overseas Voting PH**, which can be searched both on Facebook and Messenger using **@overseasvotingph**.

The Consulate General reminds all registered Overseas Voters to exercise their right and duty to participate in the high-stakes election for Philippine senators and party-list representatives. **END**



**Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila**

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FEB 19 2019
OFFICE FOR OVERSEAS VOTING

OVERSEAS ABSENTEE
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GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION OF FILIPINO COMMUNITY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO), OR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION AS PARTNERS OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONDUCT OF OVERSEAS VOTING UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9189, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT OF 2003", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10590 FOR PURPOSES OF THE MAY 13, 2019 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Chairman Sheriff M. Abas
- Commissioner Al A. Parreño
- Commissioner Lute Tito F. Guia
- Commissioner Ma. Rowena Amelia V. Guanzon
- Commissioner Socorro B. Inting
- Commissioner Marlon S. Casquejo
- Commissioner Antonio T. Kho, Jr.

RESOLUTION No. **10499** *[Signature]*

Promulgation: February 19, 2019 *[Signature]*

WHEREAS, duly accredited Filipino Communities (FilComs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are hereby recognized as partners of the Commission in implementing the overseas voting;

WHEREAS, Section 35 of Republic Act No. 9189, as amended, provides that, in the interest of transparency, all necessary and practicable measures shall be adopted to allow representation of accredited citizens' arms and nongovernment organizations to assist, and intervene in appropriate cases, in all stages of the electoral exercise and to prevent any and all forms of fraud and coercion.

WHEREAS, it is expected that the 2019 Automated National and Local Elections will generate higher voter interest and that a great number of FilComs, NGOs and CSOs may be accredited as partners of the Commission in voter education, information campaign, and other voting related activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189 as amended by Republic Act No. 10590, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following guidelines:

Section. 1. Definitions. – For purposes of this Resolution:

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2/19/19

- (a) **FILIPINO COMMUNITY** refers to a group of Filipinos of any size whose members reside in a specific locality organized due to their common regional, cultural and historical heritage, interests, occupation which are perceived to be or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.
- (b) **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION** refers to a Philippine organization that is neither a part of the Philippine government nor a conventional business establishment. It is organized by ordinary citizens, and may be funded by Philippine government, foundations, businesses, or Filipino citizens.
- (c) **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION** refers to the aggrupation of Filipino non-governmental organizations and institutions that manifest the interests and will of the citizens of the Philippines and are independent of the Philippine government.

Sec. 2. General requirements for accreditation. - All parties requesting for accreditation shall be required to submit the following:

1. A duly accomplished Accreditation Application Form;
2. List of officers and members including their addresses and contact numbers; and
3. Photocopies of Valid IDs of officers and members.

Sec. 3. Application forms. - Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV) and at the Posts. Application forms may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (<http://www.comelec.gov.ph>) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) website.

Sec. 4. Period for filing applications for accreditation. - The period for filing applications for accreditation shall be from 15 February 2019 to 31 March 2019. This period shall be non-extendible. Applications filed after the last day for filing shall not be entertained.

Sec. 5. Filing and approval of applications for accreditation. - Applications for accreditation shall be filed at the Posts. Approval of applications for accreditation shall be issued by the Head of Post.

Sec. 6. Treatment of applications for accreditation. - Within seven (7) days from the end of the period for filing applications, the Head of Post shall immediately furnish copies of all applications, with attachments, including copies of Certificates of Accreditation, to the OFOV.

Sec. 7. Certificate of Accreditation. - Upon accreditation, FilComs, NGOs or CSOs, shall be issued their Certificates of Accreditation duly signed by the Commissioner-in-Charge of OFOV or by the Head of Post. The Certificate of Accreditation shall be strictly non-transferable and is valid only for the purpose for which it was issued. Any abuse thereof shall result in revocation.

Sec. 8. Guidelines. - The duly accredited FilComs, NGOs and CSOs shall observe the following guidelines:

- a. They shall be under the supervision and control of the COMELEC or the Posts;
- b. They shall assist in organizing, managing, or operating the Voting Centers including field and mobile voting;
- c. They shall coordinate the activities of all NGOs and private organizations that are interested in involving themselves in the elections for the purpose of ensuring free, clean, honest and fair conduct of the elections;
- d. They shall deploy volunteers who may assist in the operations of the voting centers and who may also provide assistance to registered voters during the voting period;
- e. They shall assist the COMELEC or the Post by monitoring the conduct of voting and by being made a member of the Task Force that may be organized by the COMELEC or the Post for the purpose;
- f. They shall assist in the dissemination of information to educate and fully inform the public about election laws, procedures, decisions, and other matters relative to the work and duties of the COMELEC and the Posts and on the necessity of clean, free, orderly and honest electoral process;
- g. They shall observe the voting to ensure free, honest and orderly voting process;
- h. They shall be strictly non-partisan and impartial during the voting period;
- i. They shall undertake to police their ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or groups of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of non-partisanship and impartiality;
- j. They shall commit to submit themselves to the direct and immediate control and supervision, and comply with the orders, of the COMELEC or the Post in the performance of their functions and activities provided by law, and such other functions and activities which the COMELEC or the Post may assign;
- k. They shall not be supported by or be under the influence of any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person; and
- l. They shall not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person.

Sec. 9. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Sec. 10. Dissemination and publication. - The OFOV shall furnish the Office of the President, the Office of the Press Secretary, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Information Agency, FilComs, NGOs, and CSOs copies of this Resolution.

The Department of Foreign Affairs shall furnish copies thereof to all foreign embassies and consulates.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution.

SO ORDERED.

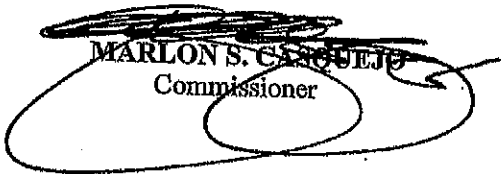

SHERIF M. ABAS
Chairperson


AL A. PARRENO
Commissioner

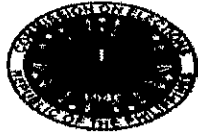

LUE TITO F. GUIA
Commissioner


MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner


SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner


MARLON S. GASCUETE
Commissioner


ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.
Commissioner



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
May 13, 2019
OVERSEAS VOTING

ACCREDITATION FORM
(Filipino Community, NGOs, and CSOs)

Instructions: Please fill out the form completely. Attach to this form (a) an original or certified true copy of list of officers and members including their addresses and contact numbers, and (b) photocopies of valid identification cards of officers and members of FilCom, NGO or CSO.

Name of the Applicant FilCom, NGO or CSO:

Name of Representative of FilCom, NGO or CSO:

(First Name)

(Middle Name)

(Surname)

Position/Rank of Representative of FilCom, NGO or CSO: _____

Residential Address of the Representative:

Office Address of FilCom, NGO or CSO: _____

Tel. No. of FilCom, NGO or CSO: _____

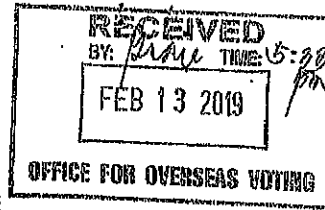
Mobile No. of FilCom, NGO or CSO: _____

Email Address of FilCom, NGO or CSO: _____

Signature Above Printed Name of Representative



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila



GUIDELINES FOR MASS MEDIA ACCREDITATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONDUCT OF OVERSEAS VOTING UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9189, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT OF 2003", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10590 FOR PURPOSES OF THE MAY 13, 2019 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Chairman Sheriff M. Abas
- Commissioner Al A. Parreño
- Commissioner Luis Tilo F. Guia
- Commissioner Ma. Rowena Amella V. Guanzon
- Commissioner Socorro B. Inting
- Commissioner Marlon S. Casquejo
- Commissioner Antonio T. Kho, Jr.

[Handwritten signature]

Resolution No. 10498

X-----X

Promulgation: February 13, 2019

[Handwritten signature]

WHEREAS, duly accredited mass media shall be given free access to polling places, voting centers, and canvassing centers in various Posts and authorized field voting centers for purposes of observing and reporting on election events and processes;

WHEREAS, it is expected that the 2019 National and Local Elections will generate great media attention and that a great number of requests for media accreditation will be filed by both Philippine and foreign media;

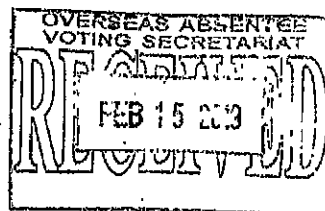
WHEREAS, there is a need to increase the efficiency in the recording and monitoring of grants of accreditation to avoid the proliferation of spurious accreditation papers or media passes;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189 as amended by Republic Act No. 10590, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7166, Republic Act No. 9006, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to promulgate the following guidelines:

Section 1. Declaration of policy. - It is the policy of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to ensure accurate reporting about the conduct and results of the 2019 National and Local Elections by providing maximum access to all stages of the electoral process to accredited media representatives subject only to conditions essential for the protection of the COMELEC and Department of Foreign Affairs personnel, property, and privileged information.

Sec. 2. Definitions.- For purposes of this Resolution:

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- (a) **LOCAL MEDIA** refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on a local scale in a given country or territory.
 - (b) **INTERNATIONAL MEDIA** refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on international scale.
 - (c) **OTHER MEDIA** refers to those engaged in other forms of journalism, including but not limited to opinion writers, public relations practitioners, creative writers, feature film and documentary film makers, and the like.
 - (d) **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES** refer to those who are actively engaged in the pursuit of information gathering and reporting or distribution, in any manner or form, including print journalist, playwrights, television journalists, feature film makers, photojournalists, documentary makers, on line journalists, television production, radio journalists, professional photographers, novelists, professional videographers, screenwriters, public relations contractors, and bloggers.

Freelancers in any of the above categories shall be accredited only if they qualify under either one of the following conditions:

1. They must be on assignment for a professionally recognized organization and the request for accreditation is made by that organization. A freelancer cannot request accreditation on behalf of the organization that he is representing; or
2. They have previous accomplishments that are highly visible, respected and widely recognized.

Sec. 3. General requirements for accreditation. - All parties requesting for accreditation shall be required to submit the following:

- a. a fully accomplished Accreditation Application Form;
- b. two (2) recently taken, 2" x 2" colored photographs; and
- c. an endorsement from the newspaper, television, radio station, or internet news agency employing the applicant.

In no case shall an application endorsed by an entity other than the applicant's direct employer be given due course; provided that the application of freelancers whose previous accomplishments are highly visible, respected and widely recognized need not be endorsed.

Sec. 4. Application forms.- Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV) and at the Posts. Application forms may also be downloaded from the COMELEC website (<http://www.comelec.gov.ph>) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) website.

Sec. 5. Period for filing applications for accreditation. - The period for filing applications for accreditation shall be from 15 February 2019 to 31 March 2019. This period shall be non-extendible. Applications filed after the last day for filing shall not be entertained.

Sec. 6. Filing and approval of applications for accreditation. - Applications for accreditation shall be personally filed at the Posts. Approval of applications for accreditation shall be granted by the Head of Post.

Sec. 7. Treatment of applications for accreditation. - Within seven (7) days from the end of the period for filing applications, the Head of Post shall immediately furnish copies of all applications, with attachments, to the OFOV.

Sec. 8. Media Card. - Upon accreditation, media representatives shall be issued a Media Card duly signed by the Head of Post. The COMELEC Media Card shall be strictly non-transferable and is valid only for the purpose for which it was issued. Any abuse thereof shall result in revocation. The Media Card shall be worn prominently whenever the media representative is covering or observing a COMELEC or electoral event.

Sec. 9. Access. - Duly accredited domestic and foreign media shall be allowed maximum access to all stages of overseas voting electoral process subject only to conditions essential for the protection of the electoral boards, properties, and privileged information.

Sec. 10. Rules of conduct. - All media representatives shall observe the following rules of conduct:

- a. Not more than three (3) media representatives shall be allowed inside the polling place at any one time;
- b. Upon entry into the polling places or canvassing area, media representatives shall immediately identify themselves to the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Groups (SBRCGs), Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEIs) or Special Board of Canvassers (SBOCs) by presenting their Media Cards;
- c. Unprofessional activities shall not be tolerated. Any media representative found to be engaging in unprofessional activities shall have their Media Cards immediately revoked by the Head of Post. Unprofessional activities include:
 - 1. Any behavior deemed disruptive of the conduct of voting, counting, or canvassing, such as, but not limited to, conducting interviews inside the polling place or canvassing center;
 - 2. Engaging in partisan political activities;
 - 3. Any behavior intended to unduly influence the choice of voters, such as, but not limited to, directly trying to sway the voter to speak for or against a candidate;
 - 4. Distributing campaign materials; and
 - 5. Any behavior deemed unlawful.

Sec. 11. Effectivity. - This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

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Sec. 12. Dissemination and publication. - The OFOV shall furnish the Office of the President, the Office of the Press Secretary, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Information Agency, and all mass media organizations copies of this Resolution.

The Department of Foreign Affairs shall furnish copies thereof to all foreign embassies and consulates.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution.


SO ORDERED.


SHERRILL M. ABAS
Chairperson

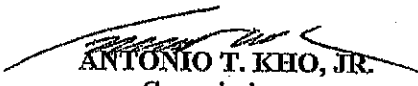

AL A. PARREÑO
Commissioner


LUIE TITO F. GUIA
Commissioner


MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON
Commissioner

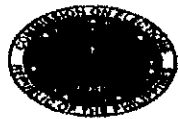

SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner


MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner


ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.
Commissioner

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
May 13, 2019
OVERSEAS VOTING

ACCREDITATION FORM
(Media)

Instructions: Please fill out the form completely. Attach to this form (a) two (2) recently taken, 2" x 2" colored photographs, (b) a photocopy of a valid identification card, and (c) an endorsement from the newspaper, television, radio station, or internet news agency employing the applicant.

Name: _____
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Surname)

Residential Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Status: _____ Nationality: _____

Employer: _____

Organization: _____

Business Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____ Mobile No. _____

Email Address: _____

Signature Above Printed Name