



EMBASSY ADVISORY

On the Conduct of All Forms of Political or Election Campaigning

The Philippine Embassy wishes to thank the Filipino community in Singapore for its overwhelming response to the recently concluded Overseas Voting (OV) registration. In spite of the pandemic, the turnout for this OV registration period, which ran from 16 December 2019 to 14 October 2021, is higher than that of the last OV registration exercise.

As we look forward to next year's national elections, and further to the Embassy's previous advisory on the matter, the Embassy would like to remind our *kababayans* to strictly follow Singapore's laws and rules that regulate political activities in public places, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- **THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT**

The **Public Order Act** requires a police permit for all gatherings in a public place to demonstrate support for, or opposition, to the views or actions of any persons, group of persons or any government, to publicize a cause or campaign, or to mark or commemorate an event. The same applies even if the gathering involves one person, and/or for the purpose of posting online.

Please note that posting online may include posting on all forms of social media. There have been previous media reports of netizens being investigated by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for what they posted on Facebook and other online platforms.

The SPF also reiterated that it will not grant any permit for assemblies that relate to foreign politics. The police will take action against any person who organizes or participates in an unlawful public assembly.

- **THE NATIONAL EMBLEMS ACT**

The **National Emblems (Control of Display) Act** prohibits the display in public of any national emblem. The term "national emblem" is defined as a flag, banner or emblem that is, or purports to be the flag, banner or emblem of:

- a) any state,
- b) any political organization claiming to be a national movement in any state, or
- c) any national leader of a state/political organization (or has any likeness or resemblance thereto).

- **THE VANDALISM ACT**

The display of posters and banners in public without the written authority of an authorized officer or appropriate representative is considered as an act of vandalism under the **Vandalism Act**.

In light of the foregoing, the Embassy strongly advises our *kababayans* to err on the side of caution when contemplating on taking part in what may be interpreted by the Singapore authorities as unlawful political or cause-based assembly, procession, or activity.

Thank you.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, SINGAPORE
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