



EMBASSY ADVISORY

AD-019-2025

ADVISORY ON PROHIBITED ACTS DURING VOTING PERIOD

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore strongly reminds the public of the following prohibited acts during the overseas voting period:

Prohibition Against Political Campaigning

The Singapore Government prohibits the **importation of foreign politics** and enforces laws to uphold its neutrality. As the overseas elections approach, Filipinos in Singapore are reminded of these legal restrictions.

The Singapore National Emblems Act prohibits the **unauthorized display of foreign national emblems**, including flags, banners, coats of arms, and political symbols, in public places. This includes wearing apparel with political logos or slogans and participating in gatherings where Philippine national emblems are displayed.

Public assemblies and processions are regulated under the Singapore Public Order Act of 2009, and requires a police permit to do so. This is to prevent disruptions and foreign political influence. Prohibited activities include holding rallies for candidates, distributing campaign materials, using social media to promote protests or campaigns, and organizing online discussions to influence votes in Singapore.

The Embassy recalls that in past overseas elections, a few of our *kababayans* were charged by Singapore authorities for participating in prohibited political activities. Such resulted in unfortunate consequences, including the loss of their employment in Singapore

Prohibition Against the Conduct of Partisan Political Activity

Campaigning for a political candidate and/or party is also strictly prohibited within the Embassy premises. **This includes, but is not limited to, wearing of statement clothing or accessories that may have the effect of campaigning for any political candidate and/or party.**

Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 or the "Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines" defines "election campaign" or "partisan political activity" as an act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate/s to a public office.

Section 72 of Article XXI- Regulation on Campaigning Abroad of the COMELEC Resolution 10751 states that, "*No partisan political activity shall be allowed within the premises of the embassy, consulate and other foreign service establishment.*"

Temporary Office: Level 16, TripleOne Somerset, 111 Somerset Rd., Singapore 238164
20 Nassim Road, Singapore 258395 | **Tel no:** +65 6737 3977 | **Fax:** +65 6733 9544
Website: www.philippine-embassy.org.sg | **E-mail:** singapore.pe@dfa.gov.ph



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SINGAPORE



During the thirty (30)-day overseas voting period, any election campaign-related or partisan political activity is prohibited within the premises of the Philippine Embassy, and within a radius of thirty (30) meters thereof.

Section 16 of COMELEC Resolution 11061 also states that “... *campaigning of candidates must comply with both the applicable laws of the host country and the regulations established by the Commission.*”

Election Offenses

The following acts are strictly prohibited, under the Omnibus Election Code, and other relevant laws in the Philippines:

1. **Vote-Buying/Selling and Undue Influence** - Offering or accepting money, gifts, or any form of compensation or promise of office or employment in exchange for votes. This also includes posting screenshots or photos as proof of voting for a candidate, which may facilitate vote-buying;
2. **Violations against Ballot Secrecy** - Taking screenshots, photos, or videos of one's digital ballot and sharing them on social media; revealing the contents of one's vote to anyone in a way that may lead to coercion or undue influence;
3. **Election Misinformation and Manipulation** – Acts such as causing confusion among voters, spreading false or misleading information about overseas voting procedures, results, or processes; this also includes conducting or publishing election surveys without the required disclosure of essential details, including data collection methods, as mandated by law, which may mislead, influence, or manipulate voters;
4. **Coercion and Intimidation** - Pressuring, threatening, or compelling anyone to vote for or against a candidate;
5. **Unauthorized Voting** - Practices such as using another person's credentials to vote online or allowing another person to fill out your ballot (when not illiterate or physically disabled);
6. **Election Process Disruptions** – May include spreading false information about the postponement, cancellation, or technical failures of the overseas voting system. Offenders may also be charged with online libel and prosecuted under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012;
7. **Foreign Interference in Philippine Elections** – It is unlawful for any non-Filipino citizen to participate, whether directly or indirectly, in any stage of the Philippine political process abroad, including campaigns and elections.

Prohibition on Premature Announcement of Voting Results

Per the Omnibus Election Code, no member of the Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI) shall make any announcement on the state of the polls before the termination of voting, which will be on 12 May 2025.

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The SBEI reserves the right not to disclose any information as to whether a certain registered voter has already voted or not, **as to how many have already voted or how many so far have failed to vote, or any other fact tending to show the state of the polls.**

The Philippine Embassy will only start canvassing the votes upon the end of voting.

Other Election Offenses Committed

COMELEC has warned that violations of election laws such as the unofficial publication of exit polls, propagation of false and alarming reports or information, circulation of false orders during the conduct of overseas voting, and other similar illegal activities, are taken seriously by the Commission. SBEIs in polling precincts may gather information on such offenses and report them to COMELEC for evaluation on whether cases can be filed against erring individuals or groups.

Furthermore, the Embassy underscores its role as **a neutral and impartial entity**. As part of its mandate to facilitate overseas voting, members of the Embassy are deputized by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) as part of the Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI), Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG), and Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC). These responsibilities necessitate strict neutrality to ensure the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Thank you.



PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, SINGAPORE

3 April 2025

Temporary Office: Level 16, TripleOne Somerset, 111 Somerset Rd., Singapore 238164
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