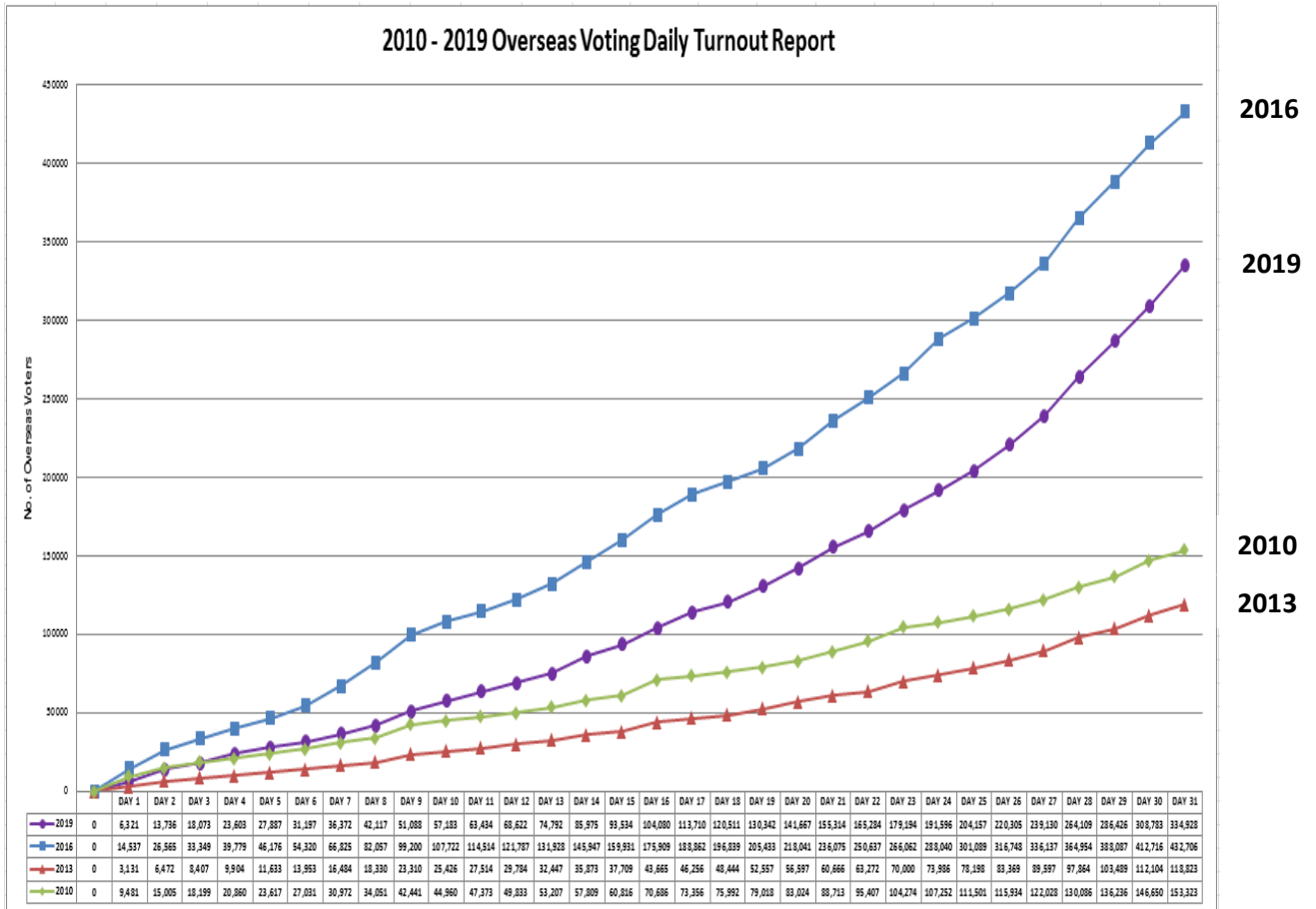


DFA-OVS: 2019 HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT FOR MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS) announced today, 24 May 2019, that the 2019 elections reached a new milestone for overseas voting.



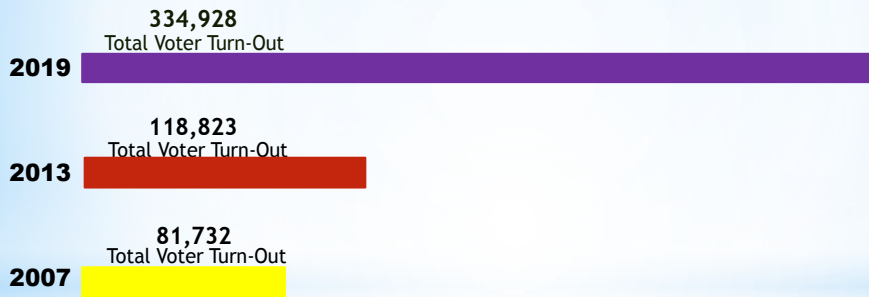
It has to be noted that the 2019 elections can be seen as the culminating activity belonging to a three-year cycle, beginning with the voter registration in 2016, six months after the Presidential elections.

Riding on the previous record-breaking number of overseas voter registrants for the 2014-2016 cycle which saw a total of 1.3 million overseas voters, the 2016-2019 cycle witnessed a further increase of interest among Filipinos abroad, bringing the total number of registered overseas voters to 1.8 million by the end of the registration period.

In terms of voter turnout per Embassy (PE)/ Consulate General (PCG), the top ten are as follows: Hong Kong PCG (36,009); Dubai PCG (28,487); Singapore PE (25,110); Abu Dhabi PE (15,806); Kuwait PE (15,558); Riyadh PE (14,616); Jeddah PCG (11,484); Tokyo PE (10,744); San Francisco PCG (9,630); and New York PCG (9,045). For the regional breakdown, Middle East and Africa took the lead at 121,240 followed by Asia Pacific at 113,139, the Americas at 54,834, and Europe at 45,715.



Comparative Statistics on the Voter Turn-Out for the Mid-Term Elections (Apple to Apple)



The 2019 National and Local Elections had its share of challenges, most notably with the vote counting machines and SD cards. Overseas, there had also been additional issues with regards to the mailing of ballots to registered voters. But despite the numerous difficulties on the conduct and management of elections overseas, the men and women of the Philippine Foreign Service have successfully ushered a voter turnout of 334,928. This makes it the highest voter turnout for a midterm election and is second only to the 2016 Presidential elections (which had a total overseas voter turnout of 432,706) since the Overseas Voting Act was signed into law in 2003. Similarly, this high turnout sustains the momentum coming from the 2016 Presidential election cycle and will hopefully continue to set new milestones for the 2022 elections. **END**