



Philippine Consulate-General, Perth W.A.

News Release

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DILG Chief: The real poll winners are the people

A May 15, 2013, press release from the Department of Interior and Local Government

Secretary of Interior and Local Government Mar Roxas said on Wednesday, May 15, that the real winners of last Monday's midterm election are the Filipino people who expressed their will in a credible, free, and peaceful election.

"Tiniyak po natin na ang taong-bayan ang panalo at ang boses nila ang nangibabaw sa isang halalan na mapayapa, malinis at may kredibilidad," Roxas said.

"Sa pamamagitan ng balota ay ating naiparinig ang boses ng mamamayan sa pamamagitan ng pagpili ng mga karapat dapat na kandidatong mamumuno sa pamahalaan," he said.

"Naipakita po natin ang sigla ng ating demokrasya," he added.

Roxas launched Task Force Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) 2013 in November last year as part of the government's early election preparations focusing on 15 "priority provinces" to reduce the level of violence and make voting peaceful, clean and orderly. The Philippine National Police called Monday's polls "safer and less bloody" than elections held in 2010 and 2007.

Based on PNP figures culled during the four-month period from January 12, when the election period began, to May 13 this year, the cases of election-related violent incidents recorded nationwide reached 75, a figure significantly lower than those recorded for the same period in the 2007 (129 cases) and 2010 (146 cases) elections.

"Naidaos natin ng matiwasay at kapani-paniwala ang halalan. Matapos ang mahabang panahon na paghahanda ng DILG at PNP, nabigyan natin ng tunay na kapangyarihan ang tao sa pagboto at hindi ang kandidato o pulitiko," Roxas said.

His statement came as partial official returns canvassed by the Comelec in an election seen as a referendum on President Aquino's "daang matuwid" showed Team PNoy senatorial candidates winning nine of the 12 slots up for grabs.

The Liberal Party-led coalition also seized the lead in close to 60 per cent of 63 gubernatorial races, most significantly in several long-held opposition bailiwicks and vote-rich provinces.

The party's gubernatorial candidates were running unopposed in the following provinces: Quirino (Junie Cua), Albay (Joey Salceda), Apayao (Elias Bulut Jr.), Oriental Mindoro (Alfonso Umali) Leyte (Dominico Petilla) and Compostela Valley (Arturo Uy).

Cebu, whose 2.5 million voters make up the largest voting population outside the National Capital Region, voted 10-2 for Team PNoy senatorial candidates and Hilario Davide III, the LP Bet for governor who continued to lead NUP's John Pablo Garcia, whose family has ruled the capitol for a total of 18 years.

LP victories were expected in Bohol (Edgar Chatto), Siquijor (Jecoy Villa) and in all the provinces comprising the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), namely, Lanao del Sur (Mamintal Adiong Jr.) Basilan (Jum Akbar), Maguindanao (Esmael Mangudadatu), Sulu (Abdusakur Tan II), and Tawi-Tawi (Nurbert Sahali).

In Zamboanga del Norte, LP candidate Berto Uy is leading in the stronghold of the Jalosjos clan, and in Batangas, re-electionist Gov Vilma Santos-Recto is a virtual winner.

The other provinces where the LP bets are leading are: Abra and Kalinga in CAR; Quirino in Region 2; Nueva Ecija in Region 3; Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Romblon in Region 4B; Camarines Norte and Albay in Region 5; Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, and Capiz in Region 6; Eastern Samar, Aklan, Biliran, and Leyte in Region 8; Zamboanga del Norte in Region 9; Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte in Region 11; North Cotabato in Region 12; and Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Agusan del Norte in CARAGA.

President Aquino signs K-12 Act into law

President Benigno S. Aquino III signed into law the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2012 or the K to 12 Basic Education Program in ceremonies held in Malacanang on Wednesday.

The K to 12 Program covers Kindergarten and 12 years of basic education (six years of primary education, four years of Junior High School and two years of Senior High School) to provide sufficient time for students mastery of concept and skills, develop lifelong learners, and prepare graduates for tertiary education, middle-level skills development, employment and entrepreneurship.

In his speech, the President said it was the duty of the State to provide for the needs and ensure fair and equal opportunities for all Filipinos, especially the poor and thus the implementation of this education program will strengthen the basic education requirements of students which in turn, will bring them closer to the fulfillment of their dreams and ambitions.

"Nagtitipon po tayo ngayon upang saksihan ang isa na namang makasaysayang araw sa ating bansa—ang paglagda natin sa batas na magsisilbing pundasyon para sa mas maaliwalas na bukas ng bawat kabataang Pilipino: ang Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 o mas kilala bilang ang K to 12 Act," the President said.

"Dahil na rin sa tiwala ng sambayanan, matagumpay nating nakamit ang adhikaing magkaroon ng isang sistemang pang-edukasyon na tunay na pumapanday sa kakayahan ng ating mga kabataan, at naglalapit sa kanila tungo sa katuparan ng kanilang mga pangarap," he added.

“Malinaw ang batayang prinsipyo ng batas na ito: karapatan ng bawat Pilipinong mamuhay nang marangal; tungkulin naman ng estadong siguruhing may patas na oportunidad ang ating mamamayan, lalo na ang pinakamahihirap nating kababayan. At isang matatag na haligi ng kanilang pag-ahon ang pagkakaroon ng mataas na antas ng edukasyon. Sa pagsasabatas ng K to 12, hindi lang tayo nagdaragdag ng dalawang taon para sa higit pang pagsasanay ng ating mga mag-aaral; tinitiyak din nating talagang nabibigyang-lakas ang susunod na henerasyon na makiambag sa pagpapalago ng ating ekonomiya at lipunan,” the President said.

Witnessing the President’s signing were major proponents, authors and co-authors of the bill from the Senate and House of Representatives led by Senators Franklin Drilon, Edgardo Angara, Ralph Recto, Speaker of the House Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. and Representatives Neptali Gonzales II, Sandy Ocampo and Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara.

Consulate-General of the Philippines

Suite 2 / 116 Mounts Bay Road, Perth, 6000, WA

P.O. Box 855, South Perth, 6951, WA

Telephone: 08 - 9481 5666, Fax 08-9463 6083

email: philconsul@gmail.com

web address: www.perthconsul.com