

26 January 2010 - The Philippine Embassy in Singapore said today that it has continuously supported the automated elections process, and has made preparations for its implementation.

This is in the light of a news report that the Embassy has been reluctant to implement automated elections in the area.

"The Embassy has no objections to conducting automated elections, if the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has decided that we should do so," Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Minda Calaguian-Cruz said.

"We have already submitted a proposed date for holding consultations and ocular inspections with COMELEC officials, as part of the automation of overseas elections last year. We assure the COMELEC of our full support," she added.

Ambassador Cruz said that when the COMELEC decided to implement automated voting in Singapore, the Embassy requested further information in order to allow it to make adjustments, adequately prepare its personnel for the new system and conduct the needed information campaign to overseas absentee voters.

The Ambassador affirmed the Embassy's support of the overseas absentee voting exercise.

"The Philippine Embassy in Singapore has always put its best effort into ensuring that overseas Filipinos based here are given every opportunity to avail of its right to vote, as reflected in the results of the Embassy's full campaign and efforts to register more voters," she stressed.
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