



(Photo above) Participants of the overseas absentee voting (OAV) training in Commissioner Lucenito Tagle during the closing of the training session. (Left photo Foreign Service Posts in the Americas listen intently to the COMELEC lecturer on photo below) Participants count and tally votes in the mock elections conducted during

20 March 2013 - The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in partnership with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), recently conducted a three-day training on the conduct of voting, counting and canvassing for the personnel of Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the Americas who will act as Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI), Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG) and Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC) on the May 13<sup>th</sup> national elections.



COMELEC Commissioner Lucanito Tagle, Chair of the Committee on Absentee Voting, delivers his remarks during the OAV training.

The training was conducted at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago from March 08 to 10.

The session began with the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, followed by remarks from

Philippine Consul General to Chicago Leo Herrera-Lim and COMELEC Committee on Absentee Voting (COAV) Chairman, Commissioner Lucenito N. Tagle.

A total of 30 representatives from different Philippine Embassies and Consulates in Canada, the United States and South America attended and participated in the training, which is part of a series that will be conducted in strategically located areas in different regions of the world.

The first two days focused on lectures, while the last day was devoted to hands-on training through a mock election.

All the participants renewed their commitment to assist the COMELEC in the conduct of the democratic exercise. The coming May elections will be the fourth time that members of the Philippine Foreign Service have been deputized by the COMELEC. Close to a million Filipinos have registered to participate in the elections. END