

# PRESS RELEASE

## Department of Foreign Affairs

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### PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, THE HAGUE RECEIVES VOTES OF FIRST FOUR FILIPINO SEAFARERS TO VOTE IN NETHERLANDS



Three COMELEC-deputized officials of the Philippine Embassy, the Hague conduct field voting aboard the cruise ferry "Pride of Rotterdam" (left photo). The first four seafarers to cast their vote (L-R) – Jonathan Bael, Danilo Cordova, Dan Rey Madrigal, and Larry Reyes – are proud to exercise their right to suffrage.

27 April 2007 — Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Romeo A. Arguelles reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that on 24 April 2007, three COMELEC-deputized officials of the Embassy headed by Consul Leila Lora-Santos – the OAV contact person at the Philippine Embassy in The Hague – conducted field voting aboard the "Pride of Rotterdam," a cruise ferry of the Dutch company P&O Ferries.

The first four seafarers were delighted to learn that they made history by being the first four seafarer-voters in the Netherlands for the 2007 elections. The seamen were Mr. Jonathan Bael of Tagaytay City, Mr. Danilo Cordova of Batangas City, Mr. Dan Rey Madrigal of Manila, and Mr. Larry Reyes of Lubao, Pampanga.

All were very glad at the opportunity to exercise their right to vote even when outside the Philippines. They expressed the common sentiment that they were happy that their votes were being counted even when they were outside the Philippines. END