

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE RESUMPTION OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION FOR QUALIFIED OVERSEAS FILIPINOS FOR PURPOSES OF THE 2022 NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

## **1. Who may register as overseas voters?**

- i)** Any Filipino citizen who is, or will be, abroad during the Overseas Voting Period (09 April 2021 – 09 May 2021), at least eighteen (18) years of age on 09 May 2021, who is not a registered overseas voter and not otherwise disqualified by law;
- ii)** Those who have reacquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under R.A. 9225 and other Filipino citizens with dual citizenship;

## **2) What is the difference between an Application for Registration and an Application for Certification as an overseas voter?**

An Application for Registration as an overseas voter is filed when one is not yet a registered voter in the Philippines. However, if one is already a registered voter in the Philippines, one files for an Application for Certification as an overseas voter.

## **3) What is the procedure for filing my application for registration/certification as an overseas voter?**

You have to:

- a. Personally appear at any Foreign Service Post (FSP) of the Republic of the Philippines, Manila Economic and Cultural Offices (MECOs) in Taiwan or at any designated Registration Center outside the FSP or in the Philippines. For an updated list of registration centers in the Philippines, please check COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) and DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) website.
- b. Accomplish OVF No. 1;
- c. Submit/Furnish supporting documents;
- d. Submit to a biometrics capture

## **4) What documents will I present to the representatives of the COMELEC in the Embassy, Consulate, Mission or designated Registration Centers in the Philippines?**

- a. An accomplished OVF No. 1 as prescribed by the COMELEC;
- b. A valid Philippine Passport. In the absence of a passport, a Certification from the Department of Foreign Affairs certifying either of the following: (1) that you have submitted documents that will warrant the issuance of a

- passport; (2) that the applicant is a valid passport holder but is unable to produce it for a valid reason.
- c. If you are a Seafarer, a photocopy of your Seaman's Book or any other document that will prove that you are a seafarer should also be submitted in addition to "a" and "b" above; and,
  - d. If you have availed of RA 9225, you should also provide a certified true copy of the signed Oath of Allegiance or Order of Approval submitted to the Embassy/Consulate in addition to "a" and "b" above.

The COMELEC may require additional data to establish your identity.

**5) Where can I file my application for registration/certification as an overseas voter?**

Before the authorized representatives of the COMELEC at any of the FSPs and MECOs or in specifically designated field or mobile registration areas outside the FSP. You can also file your applications at any Registration Centers in the Philippines. For an updated list of registration centers in the Philippines, please check COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) and DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) website.

**6) When can I file my application for registration/certification as an overseas voter?**

For purposes of the **09 May 2021** elections you may file your application for registration/certification as an overseas voter from **16 December 2019 to 30 September 2021**. Please inquire from any Embassy, Consulates, and Missions as to the exact scheduled registration days applicable to you.

**7) Where can I get OVF No. 1 and other OV Registration forms?**

From the Philippine Embassies, Consulates General, Consulates, MECOs and other designated registration centers outside the FSP or in the Philippines. Forms may also be downloaded from the website of the COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) or the Department of Foreign Affairs – Overseas Voting Secretariat ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)).

**8) What information do I need to furnish in OVF No. 1?**

OVF No. 1. has three (3) parts:

Part 1. This part contains your Personal Circumstances.

Part 2. The name of your authorized representative in the Philippines must also be indicated, should you choose to appoint one.

Part 3. The Oath that you must take

**9) If I download the OVF No. 1 from the website of the COMELEC or the DFA-OVS, how should I proceed with my application for registration/certification as an overseas voter?**

You have to:

- a. Accomplish OVF No. 1;
- e. Personally appear at any FSPs and MECOs or at any designated Registration Centers in the Philippines. For an updated list of registration centers in the Philippines, please check COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) and DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) website.
- b. Submit the accomplished OVF No. 1 together with your supporting documents; and
- c. Submit to a biometrics capture

**10) What does it mean to submit to a biometrics capture?**

Biometrics capture means that your photograph, signature and fingerprint will be electronically recorded using a special digital equipment called Voter Registration Machine (VRM).

**11) May I submit my accomplished OVF No. 1 and submit myself for live capture of my biometrics on different days?**

No, you may not. The accomplished OVF No. 1 must be turned in on the same day that you intend to have your biometrics taken because even if you have submitted your OVF No. 1 but have not had your biometrics taken, your application will still be deemed NOT FILED. **However, if on the day that you filed your application, the Voters Registration Machine (VRM) is defective or otherwise not available, you will be required to return on a different date when the machine becomes available.**

**12) I am a Seafarer, how should I proceed with my application for registration/certification as an overseas voter?**

You have to:

- a. Personally appear at ANY FSPs and MECOs or at the designated Registration Centers in the Philippines. For an updated list of registration centers in the Philippines, please check COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) and DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) website.
- a. Accomplish OVF No. 1 indicating the specific address where you want your ballot to be sent;
- b. Submit the accomplished OVF No. 1 together with your supporting documents; and

c. Submit to a biometrics capture.

**13) How will I know if my application has been approved?**

You may regularly check the website of the COMELEC ([www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)) or DFA-OVS ([www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph](http://www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph)) if your application has been approved. You may also check with your Embassy or Consulate.

**14) How will I know if my application has been disapproved?**

You will receive a Notice of Disapproval of your application by mail or any other modes of communication, from the Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) of the FSPs or MECOs which heard your application.

**15) What should I do if my application has been disapproved?**

Within five (5) days from receipt of the Notice of Disapproval of your application, you or your authorized representative may file a Motion for Reconsideration before the Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) of the Post or with the RERB of the COMELEC in Manila.

**16) What is the Resident Election Registration Board (RERB)?**

It is the Board based in the FSPs or MECOs and COMELEC Central Office in Manila, which shall hear and act on all applications for registration/certification as overseas voter.

**17) What if the RERB denies my Motion for Reconsideration of the disapproval of my application for registration/certification?**

You may file a Petition for Inclusion with the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court in Manila within ten (10) days from the receipt of the Notice of the denial.

**18) What should I do if my name has been omitted, misspelled or erroneously written in the National Registry of Overseas Voters (NROV)?**

You may personally, or through your authorized representative, file with the OFOV or with the Post having jurisdiction over the voter's residence, an Application for Reinstatement in the NROV by accomplishing OVF No. 1 (Back Page) for CORRECTION OF WRONG ENTRIES/MISPELLED NAMES/CHANGE OF NAME & OTHER ENTRIES IN THE VOTER'S ID/NATIONAL REGISTRY OF OVERSEAS VOTERS (NROAV) and submit the same to the COMELEC-OFOV or the Post having jurisdiction over the applicant's residence, not later than ninety (90) days before the start of voting period (10 January 2016).

**19) I registered as an overseas absentee voter in 2013 and I was able to vote in the 2013 and 2016 National Elections but was unable to vote in 2019 National Elections. Do I still need to apply for certification to vote abroad?**

No, because your name is already listed in the Certified List of Overseas Voters (CLOV) and the National Registry of Overseas Voters (NROV) but if you fail to vote in the 2021 National Elections abroad, your name will be deactivated from the CLOV of your Embassy or Consulate.

**20) I registered as an overseas voter in 2019 but I know I will be in another country come 09 May 2021. Can I vote in the 2021 elections?**

Yes, you have to file a Letter-Request for Transfer of Registration Record (OVF No. 1) before your Embassy or Consulate.

**21) I registered as an overseas voter in 2019 but I know I will be in the Philippines come 09 May 2021. Can I vote in the 2021 elections in the Philippines?**

Yes, you have to file a Letter-Request for Transfer of Registration Record (OVF No. 1) before your Embassy or Consulate or before the COMELEC-OFOV in Manila.

## **GLOSSARY**

**Certified List of Overseas Voters (CLOV)** refers to the list of registered overseas voters whose applications to vote overseas have been approved by the Commission, said list to be prepared by the Office for Overseas Voting of the Commission, on a country-by-country and post-by-post basis. The list shall be approved by the Commission in an *en banc* resolution.

**Commission** refers to the Commission on Elections.

**Day of Election** refers to the actual date of elections in the Philippines.

**Department of Foreign Affairs Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS)** refers to the secretariat based at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) home office tasked to assist the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV) under the Commission, and to direct, coordinate and oversee the participation of the DFA in the implementation of the Overseas Voting Act.

**Field Registration** refers to the conduct of registration of overseas voters at predetermined locations, either in the Philippines, as may be determined by the Commission, or outside the posts, upon the favorable recommendation of the DFA-OVS, both being of limited duration and based on the guidelines prescribed by the Commission for that exclusive purpose; the government shall not collect fees for the same.

**Mobile Registration** refers to the conduct of registration of overseas voters at various locations outside the posts, other than at field registrations, undertaken as part of the posts' mobile consular and outreach activities to Filipinos within their jurisdictions.

**Municipal/City/District Registry of Overseas Voters (ROV)** refers to the consolidated list prepared, approved and maintained by the Commission for every municipality/city/district of overseas voters whose applications for registration as such, including those registered voters under Republic Act No. 8189, 'Voter's Registration Act of 1996', who applied for certification as overseas voters, have been approved by the Election Registration Board and/or resident Election Registration Board.

**National Registry of Overseas Voters (NROV)** refers to the consolidated list prepared, approved and maintained by the Commission of overseas voters whose applications for registration as overseas voters, including those registered voters under Republic Act No. 8189 who have applied to be certified as overseas voters, have been approved by the resident Election Registration Board, indicating the post where the overseas voter is registered.

**Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV)** refers to the Office of the Commission tasked to oversee and supervise the effective implementation of the Overseas Voting Act.

**Overseas Voter** refers to a citizen of the Philippines who is qualified to register and vote under this Act, not otherwise disqualified by law, who is abroad on the day of elections.

**Overseas Voting** refers to the process by which qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad exercise their right to vote.

**Posts** refer to the Philippine Embassies, Consulates, Foreign Service Establishments and other Philippine government agencies maintaining offices abroad and having jurisdiction over the places where the overseas voters reside.

**Resident Election Registration Board (RERB)** refers to the in-house Election Registration Board in every post and in the OFOV, which processes, approves or disapproves all applications for registration and/or certification as overseas voters, including the deactivation, reactivation and cancellation of registration records.

**Seafarers** refer to ship officers and ratings manning ships, including offshore workers, service providers and fishermen, as denned in the revised rules on the issuance of seafarer's identification and record book of the Maritime Industry Authority.

**Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG)** refers to the group constituted by the Commission to receive and take custody of all accountable and other election forms, supplies and paraphernalia from the OFOV for transmittal to the Special Board of Election Inspectors and Special Board of Canvassers.

**Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC)** refers to the body deputized by the Commission to canvass the overseas voting election returns submitted to it by the Special Board of Election Inspectors.

**Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI)** refers to the body deputized by the Commission to conduct the voting and counting of votes.

**Voting Period** refers to a continuous thirty (30)-day period, the last day of which is the day of election, inclusive of established holidays in the Philippines and of such other holidays in the host countries."