



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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EU Ambassador congratulates the Philippines on a smooth election

Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, EU Ambassador to the Philippines, said today how pleased he had been to have seen a smooth and generally trouble-free election yesterday.

He said "The elections of May 10, the high voter turnout and the admirable patience shown by the voters were an impressive proof of the resolve of the Philippine people to have their voice heard in both national and local politics."

"I had the privilege of observing the electoral process in both Cavite and Batangas yesterday," Ambassador MacDonald said, "and was impressed by the manner in which this first nation-wide automated election was conducted. Voters seemed generally comfortable with this new system, turn-out was high, and the automation process seemed to work well, with relatively few technical hitches".

The Ambassador noted that many of his colleagues from EU Embassies had also observed the elections, at various locations in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, and all had appreciated the smooth conduct of the voting process overall. "Despite the intense heat, the long lines and the inevitable unfamiliarity of a new process," he said, "our observations suggested that this process was carried out smoothly, and the results transmitted rapidly, in the great majority of cases".

He expressed concern, however, about reports of electoral violence both on and before voting day. He said these detracted from an otherwise ground-breaking event in Philippine electoral history, and expressed the hope that the authorities would follow up quickly and effectively to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Ambassador MacDonald added a special word of congratulations to the teachers, and all who helped to make this first automated election a success. "The dedicated efforts of all who served on the Boards of Electoral Inspectors, from before dawn to after dusk, deserve a special commendation – their efforts responded to the desire of the Philippine voters for a smooth and credible election."



The European Union (EU) numbers 27 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have, together, built a zone of peace, stability, progress and solidarity. The EU is a model for overcoming conflict and promoting reconciliation through close co-operation to achieve common goals, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the EU is not focused on itself. Its ambition is to share its achievements and values with countries beyond its borders.

The European Commission (EC) is the EU's executive body.