



Expected Voters Turn-Out:

1.8 Million Voters in Southern Mindanao to Vote on May 14 Election

Based on the average voting rate in the last three elections, i.e., the 1992 synchronized election and the 1995 and 1998 national and local elections, around 76 percent or approximately 1.8 Million registered voters in Southern Mindanao are expected to exercise their right of suffrage on May 14, 2001 elections.

The number of registered voters in the region showed an increasing trend from 1992 to 2001. The official data released by the Commission on Election (COMELEC) XI reveals that this year's voting population in Southern Mindanao has increased to 2,392,842. The 2001 figure is higher by 167,654 or 7.5 percent than the 2,225,188 voters listed in the May 11, 1998 national and local elections.

Among the provinces in Southern Mindanao, Sarangani province has the highest percentage increase of voters from 1998 to 2001 with 13.3 percent. This is followed by Davao Oriental (12.0%), Compostela Valley (11.6%), and Davao del Sur (9.3%). Davao City has the least with only 3.1 percent increase, indicating an addition of 17,383 new voters from 555,628 in 1998 to 578,010 in 2001. Nevertheless, Davao City remained to have the highest number of registered voters, while Sarangani had the least with only 165,591. Notably, the three provinces with the least number of registered voters showed the highest percentage increase in 2001.

The voters turn-out in Southern Mindanao manifested an erratic trend from 1992 to 1998. During the 1992 synchronized election, only 71 percent of the registered voters casted their votes. In 1995 elections, it dropped to 67 percent. However, in 1998 elections, 85 percent of the registered voters exercised their right of suffrage.

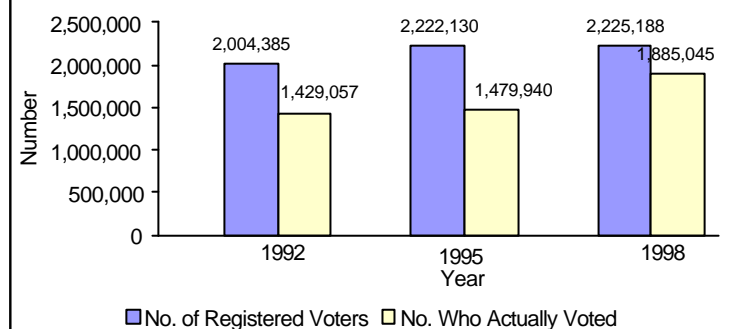
The erratic trend in voters turn-out was also evident in the province and city. In 1992 elections, Davao del Norte had 73 percent voting turn-out. A decrease of 5 percentage points was recorded in 1995 elections. However, the voting turn-out rose to 87 percent during 1998 elections. All provinces and city had their lowest and highest voting turn-out in 1995 and 1998 elections, respectively.

Number of Registered Voters in Southern Mindanao, 1998 and 2001

Province/City	Registered Voters		% Inc/(Dec)
	1998	2001	
Davao Oriental	188,453	211,076	12.0
Davao del Norte	316,240	336,658	6.5
Compostela Valley	236,094	263,514	11.6
Davao del Sur	319,846	349,701	9.3
South Cotabato	462,814	493,292	6.6
Sarangani	146,114	165,591	13.3
Davao City	555,627	573,010	3.1
Southern Mindanao	2,225,188	2,392,842	7.5

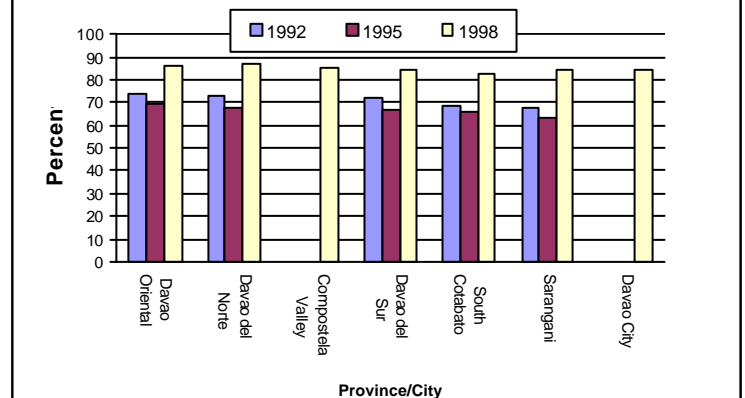
Source of data: COMELEC XI

Fig. 1: Registered Voters Who Actually Voted, Southern Mindanao: 1998 and 2001



Source of data: COMELEC XI

Fig. 2: Percent Who Actually Voted, Southern Mindanao by Province/City: 1992, 1995 and 1998



Note:
 Data of COMVAL in 1992 & 1995 elections included in Davao Del Norte
 Data of Davao City in 1992 & 1995 elections included in Davao Del Sur