



## 1.6 Million Voters in Davao Region are expected to exercise their Right of Suffrage on May 14, 2007 Elections

Based on the average voting rate in the last two national and local elections, years 2001 and 2004, around 73 percent or approximately 1.6 Million registered voters in Davao Region are expected to go to their respective polling precincts to cast their votes on May 14, 2007 elections.

The number of registered voters in the region showed an increasing trend from 1998 to 2007. The official data released by the Commission on Election (COMELEC) XI reveals that this year's voting population in Region XI has increased to 2,226,528. The 2007 figure is slightly higher by 84,136 or 3.9 percent than the 2,142,392 voters registered in the May 10, 2004 national and local elections.

Among the provinces in Davao Region, Compostela Valley has the highest percentage increase of registered voters from 2004 to 2007 with 6.8 percent. This is followed by Davao Oriental (6.0%) and Davao del Sur (4.0%). Davao del Norte has a very slight increase of registered voters with only 0.7 percent. Davao del Sur, which includes Davao City, remained to have the highest number of registered voters with 1,232,028 while Davao Oriental had the least with 248,443.

While the voting population in the region showed an increasing trend, voters turn-out on the contrary showed a decreasing trend from 1998 to 2004. During the 1998 national and local elections, 85 percent of the registered voters exercised their right of suffrage. In 2001 elections, the voters turn-out dropped to 74 percent. It continuously dropped to 72 percent in the 2004 synchronized national and local elections.

A downward trend of voters turn-out was also evident in the province of Davao del Sur. In 1998, Davao del Sur had 84 percent voting turn-out. It dropped to 73 percent in 2001 and continuously dropped to 68 percent in 2004. On the other hand, provinces of Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental had an erratic trend in voters turn-out from 1995 to 2004. All provinces had their lowest and highest voting turn-out in 1995 and 1998 elections, respectively.

Table 1. Number of Registered Voters in Davao Region, 2004 and 2007

Province/City	Registered Voters		% Inc/(Dec)
	2004	2007	
Davao Oriental	234,366	248,443	6.0
Davao del Norte	425,707	428,652	0.7
Compostela Valley	297,156	317,405	6.8
Davao del Sur	1,185,163	1,232,028	4.0
Davao Region	2,142,392	2,226,528	3.9

Source: COMELEC XI

Fig. 1: Registered Voters who Actually Voted & Voters Turn-out, Davao Region: 1995, 1998, 2001, and 2004

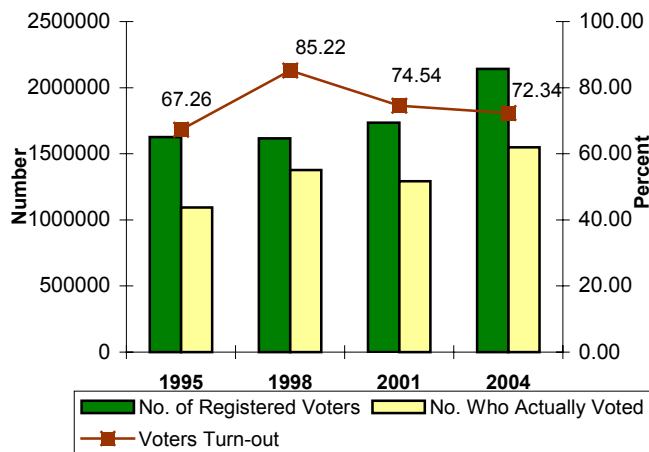


Fig. 2: Percent who Actually Voted, Davao Region by Province: 1995, 1998, 2001 and 2004

