

143,800 Overseas Thais registered for overseas voting

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The Government revealed 143,800 Thai people who live abroad have already registered for overseas voting, and expressed support for the general election to be held on February 2, 2014.

January 6, 2014, at 1120hrs, at the Center for Administration of Peace and Order (CAPO), Royal Thai Police Headquarter, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul, in his capacity as chair of CAPO's strategic planning and coordination committee, held a press conference on the number of Thai citizens living abroad who have registered themselves as overseas voters for the upcoming general election. According to Deputy PM Surapong, there are 143,800 out of 1,039,032 overseas Thais having registered themselves for the overseas voting at 92 royal Thai embassies and consulates in 67 countries. The registration is in compliance with the Election Committee's criteria and regulation. This reflects understanding of overseas Thai citizens on the democratic process and their support of the general election on February 2, 2014 which is the best way out of current political conflict and is globally acceptable.

Deputy PM Surapong stated that PDRC's movement under the leadership of Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban and a group of co-leaders is not under the democratic process, is illegal, and only causes damages to the country as well as social disorder.

Detail of the registration of overseas voters in the countries where a large number of Thai citizens reside is summarized as follow: USA: 14,985 people; Singapore: 10,356 people; UK: 5,239 people; and Germany: 8,868 people. The total number of registered overseas voters in 2014 is 143,800, whereas that in 2011 is 146,662.