

Possibility and Prospect for the Use of AI in the Elections of the Philippines: An Analysis of the Findings from the ANFREL's Final Report of the 2025 Philippines National and Local Elections

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Abstract: *The 2025 Philippine midterm elections constituted a landmark experiment in technology-mediated democratic governance, combining new Automated Counting Machines (ACMs), internet voting for overseas Filipinos and pervasive social media campaigning. This paper examines the interplay of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools with legal frameworks, civil society and electoral administration in the Philippines, drawing on the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) Final Report of the 2025 Philippine National and Local Elections. It analyses four principal domains: the evolution of election automation and regulatory institutionalisation; the deployment of AI for social media monitoring, disinformation detection and voter targeting; the structural democratic implications of technology adoption, including information inequality and algorithmic bias; and the governance challenges of aligning technological innovation with legal accountability and civic education. Findings demonstrate that while ACMs achieved a 99.997% audit accuracy and voter turnout reached a historic 82.2%, significant regulatory blind spots persist, particularly concerning anonymous digital actors. The paper concludes that AI-based electoral governance requires a multi-layered framework integrating institutional legitimacy, civil society oversight and media literacy.*

Keywords: *artificial intelligence; electoral governance; disinformation; automated counting machines; social media monitoring; digital democracy; media literacy; algorithmic bias*