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UNITY STATEMENT:

MAKE THE 2022 ELECTIONS SAFE, FAIR, AND FREE FOR ALL

We, the academe, civil society organizations, youth groups, and sectoral leaders, call on the national government, Congress, and the electoral stakeholders to **COVID-proof** the 2022 elections. **Covid-proof** means ensuring that the elections are safe, fair, and free for all Filipino voters.

One year from now, the 2022 national and local elections will again put the integrity of Philippine democracy to a test. The government certainly puts efforts to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. However, these efforts may not be enough to fully surmount the health crisis as the virus continues to pose a threat to many public activities including the upcoming elections.

Lessons from the recently-concluded Palawan plebiscite and from several countries that recently held their elections showed us that it is possible to hold democratic processes successfully amidst the pandemic. We believe that it can be done as long as the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is given enough support and resources including budget, and assistance to implement effective health and safety policies. Alongside these measures, a multi-stakeholder approach could also support COMELEC, including extensive information and awareness initiatives, and protocols to ensure safe and fair political campaigns.

We further call for specific measures such as:

Ensuring that the COMELEC receives enough funds to overcome the fear and uncertainty of voting. An additional allocation of about PhP 10 billion is needed to implement measures that will protect citizens and create an environment of safe, secure, and credible elections. This estimate is based on international best practices, and the estimated additional cost the government needed to ensure the safe conduct of the Palawan Plebiscite in March.



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Protecting voters from COVID-19 and politicking. Stricter measures should be implemented from the start of the election period to voting day. The Philippines can learn from the best practices of countries that successfully held their elections amidst the pandemic such as Indonesia, Singapore, and the United States.

There is a need to curb the expected rise in vote buying due to the country's economic conditions. It will also be critical not to politicize impending access to vaccines by making them fairly available to all based on identified needs and criteria. Responsive, prompt, and efficient distribution of financial aid will also help reduce politicizing social development, and consequently, the elections.

Implementing an extensive information and awareness campaign on safety. To instill confidence among voters, there is a need to establish an atmosphere of safety and trust in health protocols. It is critical to provide accessible and reliable information on the safety measures done to prepare for election day, and to form effective campaigns against disinformation and misinformation that may cause fear and concern among the voters.

Promoting safe and fair new normal campaigning. There is a need to ensure that political campaigns are safe and fair, that spending is transparent, and that candidates are accountable for their actions.

Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure transparency. Election stakeholders such as civil society organizations, other government agencies, the academe, the youth, and other sectors could be effective partners in developing and implementing appropriate policy measures and regulations for the elections. Transparency and cooperation can build the legitimacy of this democratic exercise.

We pledge to support COMELEC and other democratic stakeholders to consistently implement protocols that will ensure the success of the May 2022 elections.

We invite the more than 50 million voting population to join us in our call for a safe, fair, and free democratic exercise.



La Salle Institute of Governance





Signatories:

Ateneo School of Government (ASOG)
La Salle Institute of Governance (LSIG)
National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)
Caucus of Development NGO Networks, Inc. (CODE-NGO)
Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)
Action Bridges Aspiration Trainings Inc. - Maluso Branch
Active Moro
Alliance For Development
Active Vista Center, Inc.
Active Young Saver Society
Adlawan SK Youth
Advocates and Leaders for Action and Awareness (ADLAAW)
AIESEC in the Philippines
Aktibong Kabataan ng Dampalit (AKDA)
Al-barka Youth Serving Association
Al-Fauj Al-Imanie Philippines
Alamin Abdullah MALIGA
Aljalis Assalih Inc. (The Good Companion) - Pagadian City Chapter
Alliance of Magnanimous Youth Leaders Inc. (AMYL) - Cotabato City
Alliance of Magnanimous Youth Leaders, Inc. (AMYL) - Datu Anggal Midtimbang
Alliance Youth Philippines
Alpha Kappa Rho International Humanitarian Service Fraternity and Sorority Inc. - Maimbung Chapter
Alpha Phi Omega Lambda - NU Chapter
Alyansa ng Kabataang Mindanao para sa Kapayapaan (AKMK)
Alyansa Pasig Youth Group
Anak ng Tribu Higaunen-Talaandig Association
Asbury College, Inc.
Association of Foundations, Inc. (AF)
Asturias Youth Organization
Awladul Islam Islamic Propagation
Ayala Young Leaders Alumni Association Inc. (AYLAA)



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Bacolod Youth Coalition for Democracy
Bangsakultoura
Bangsamoro Young Leaders Program - Leadership Communities
Barangay X SK Council - Roxas City
Basilan Youth Development initiative movement
Batangas State University Alangilan Campus - Supreme Student Council
Benta Uno
Bicol University College of Engineering - College Student Council - Albay
Bicol University College of Engineering - College Student Council - Guinobatan
Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP)
Bukluran ng mga Katutubo para sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan sa Pilipinas
C's-SPARK
Capiz Eco - Youth Volunteers
CapSU - Main Campus
CCC Student Parliament
Cebu Coalition of Student Councils
Cebuano Youth Ambassadors, Inc. Central Mindanao University
Central Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (CENVISNET)
Christian Family Movement Coalition of Moro Youth Movement
Colegio San Agustin - Bacolod Student Government
College of Education Students' Society
Collegiate of Engineering Council
Communicators' Society LPU-Laguna
CTE League of Leaders
Dagook Sindaw Kalombayan
Democratic Alliance Student for Integrated Governance
Department of Education (DepEd) Bulacan
Division of Bulacan Federation of Supreme Student Government and Pinas
Forward Bulacan
Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University - South La Union Campus
CSBO (DMMMSU-SLUC CSBO)
Eastern Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (EVNET)
Fatima Vigan Multi Purpose Cooperative
Federation of Trans-Parochial Charismatic Communities (FTCC)
Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)
Future Leader of the Philippines - Capsu Dumarao Chapter



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Future Leaders of the Philippines - CapSU Dayao Chapter
Gawad Laguna Inc.
Gerry Roxas Leadership Awardee - Aklan
Gerry Roxas Leadership Awardees - Iloilo
GMA Cavite Youth Organization
Good Governance Initiative
GoodGovPH
Government Watch (G-Watch)
Green Eco Warrior
H.O.S.T Organization
Hagonoy Young Leaders Program (HYLeaP)
Hijab for a Cause Humanities and Social Sciences Council - Liceo de La Salle
Humans Helping Humans Initiative
I Connect Youth Network
InclusiviTeach
Innovations for Poverty Action
International Association of Youth and Student for Peace
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls
Iranun Youth Initiative
IYouDahanJuan Youth Network
Junior Philippine Pharmacists Association - AUF
Junior Philippine Society For Public Administration - Central Visayas Chapter
Junior Philippine Society for Public Administration - NCR Chapter
Junior Philippine Society for Public Administration (JPSA) - Western Visayas
Junior Philippine Society for Public Administration Central Luzon Chapter
Junior Philippine Society for Public Administration North Luzon Chapter
Junior Philippine Society of Public Administration - Southern Tagalog
Kabataan Moro - Mamasapano
Kabataan sa Kartilya ng Katipunan
Kabataang Likha ni Pedro
Kabataang Lingkod Bayan ng Pilipinas
Kabataang San Joseño Movement
Kabataang Tambuli ng Pasig
Kajatian Active Youth Organization
Kalibo Youth Development Office



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Kapisanan ng mga Guro sa Araling Panlipunan Sangay ng Lungsod ng Butuan Inc.

Kapisanan ng mga Mag-aaral ng Araling Panlipunan (KMAP)

Katipunan Ng Kabataan - Barangay San Juan

Katipunan ng Kabataan - San Francisco

Kilos Ko Youth - Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat

Kilos Ko Youth - Imus

Kusug Batah Sug Inc.

Lakas Kabataan Sulu Youth Power Inc.

League of Young Catalyst

LENTE Philippines

LGU Bulakan

LGU Claveria

LGU Orani

Liberal Youth

Ligaya ng Panginoon (LnP)

Liguasan Marsh Youth Association for Peace and Development

Local Youth Development Council - Aglipay

Local Youth Development Council - Malolos City

Local Youth Development Office - Jordan

Local Youth Development Office - Moncada

Lumba Bayabao Youth Leaders (LBYL)

Lumpukan Nu Kangudan Sa Libutan Lalawag A Kalilintad (LKLLK)

Lung-Aw Claveria

Lupon ng mga Indibidwal na Nangangalaga ng Kalikasan

Madrasatu Mentok Al-Islamiyyah

Makati Business Club (MBC)

Maki-BaKa (Bantay Kalikasan) Movement

Maluso Ecowarrior

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

Mindanao Interfaith Youth Circle

Mindanao State University (MSU) - Maguindanao Supreme Student Council

Montay Advocates of Peace and Progress for Youth Association

Moriatao O Ranaw

Moro Active Group of Apas Peace and Solidarity (MAGPAS)

Movement to Victory Group



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Multiple District 301 Leo Philippines
Muslim Christian Youth Alliance for Progress
Muslim Students' Union Philippines Inc.
Muslim Youth Brotherhood
MYDev Cotabato Youth Network (MCYN)
MYPEACE: Boses ng Kabataan
Nadil Afiyaat
National Society of Parliamentarians Inc. (NSP)
National Youth Commission
North Luzon Cinema Guild, Inc.
Now You Know (NYK)
Olympus Society of Davao Inc.
One Quest Langkiwa
One Society bringing Transformation through Effective Programs
Online SDG Youth Action Forum
Open Arms Organization
Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP) - Estancia
Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP) - Iriga
Pagsirang Inc.
Pangasinan State University
Pangutaran Youth Leader's League
Panlalawigang Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan - Aurora Province
Parish Youth Apostolate
Parish Youth Ministry and YOUACTIVE
PH-LEAD - Aurora Chapter
PH-LEAD - Baguio Benguet Chapter
PH-LEAD - Bataan Chapter
PH-LEAD - Bulacan Chapter
PH-LEAD - Cebu Chapter
PH-LEAD - Central Palawan Chapter
PH-LEAD - Marinduque Chapter
PH-LEAD - Northern Palawan Chapter
PH-LEAD - Nueva Ecija Chapter
PH-LEAD - Occidental Mindoro Chapter
PH-LEAD - Oriental Mindoro Chapter
PH-LEAD - Pampanga Chapter



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PH-LEAD - Romblon Chapter
PH-LEAD - Sultan Kudarat Chapter
PH-LEAD - Tarlac Chapter
PH-LEAD - Zambales Chapter
PH-LEAD - Zamboanga Chapter
Philippine Business for Education (PBEEd)
Philippine Institute of Civil Engineer - Bicol University Student Chapter (PICE-BUSC)
Philippine Leadership Empowerment Alliance for Development, Inc (PH-LEAD, Inc)
Philippine Muslim Student Association - MSU Chapter
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PHILDHRRA)
Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers - Bicol University Student Unit
Political Science Parliament
Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)
Project Namnama
Project Watch of San Pedro National High School
Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO) - LGU Roxas City
ProYOUTHactive PH
Public Administration League Student (PALS)
Public Administration Society - Echague
Public Administration Society - Ilagan
Puerto Youth Apostolate
PUP JPIA Manila
Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc.
Ready, Set, Vote! - Batangas City
Ready, Set, Vote! - Ibaan
Ready, Set, Vote! - Lipa
Ready, Set, Vote! - San Pascual
Regional Federation of Supreme Student Government - BARMM
REPORMA-ACS
Responsible Young Leaders Organization
RiceUp Farmers Incorporated
RIGHTS
Rizal Estanzuela Youth Organization



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Rotaract Club of Cebu Fuente - University of San Carlos Chapter
Sacred Heart School - Ateneo de Cebu Leaders' Council
Sagot Kita Bayan
Saguisag A Ranaw
Salbo Pagating Mamasapano Shariff Aguak
San Julian Pride Advocacy Group Inc.
San Pedro National High School - Project W. A. T. C. H.
San Roque Parish Youth Ministry
San Vicente: Project Bayanihan
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Aguilar
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Baggao
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Barangobong
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Culasi
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Dayo-an
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Greater Lagro
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Labangal
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Mandamo
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Masikap
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Mate
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Milibili
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Raya Saduc
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay San Francisco
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Tanque
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barangay Tinawagan
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Barotac Viejo
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Butuan
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Kidapawan
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Laurel
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Pozorrubio
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) - Villaba
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation - Paranaque City
Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation - Poro, Cebu
Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas (LAIKO)
Siklab Pilipinas
SKIA Student Body Organization (SBO)
SKMF - JordanSMART SOCIETY



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Society of Youth Organization - San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan Chapter
SOHEILA
Sokah Bulan Basketball Associations
SoulPH
SPE - Batangas State University
Saints Peter & Paul Vicariate Youth Ministry
Student Alliance for a Christian and Real Education under Democracy
Student Parliament Suara Kalilintad Association Inc.
Sulu Youth Peace Volunteers
Super Lumba
Support Values Group
Supreme Student Council - Dumarao
Supreme Student Council - Manila College Student Council
Supreme Student Council - Pontevedra
Supreme Student Council - Sigma
Supreme Student Council - Zamboanga City
Supreme Student Government - Lambunao National High School
Supreme Student Government - Mandaue City
Supreme Student Government - MSU
Supreme Student Government - San Lorenzo Ruiz Senior High School
Supreme Student Government - Sinagtala
Suwala Kamakanakan Peer Advocates
Tabang Sikad
Tagum SDG Youth Action Force
Tapocan Youth for Innovations
Tatak Botante
Tau - Social Peace Advocate of Real Tawi-Tawians Active Network
Taumbayan Project
TC Sparks Philippines Organisation, Inc.
Team Albay Youth Organizations (TAYO) Inc.
Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL)
Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO)
The Current — Official Student Media of City of Malabon University
The League of Political Science
The Student Power Party
The Ten Outstanding Women in The Nation's Service (TOWNS Foundation)



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Tipo-Tipo Tongtambisan Youth Organization
Trece Martires City College, Guild of English Majors
UCC Political Science Department
Ugop Ko Masa
Ugyon Youth Visionaries
Ukhuwwatu Al-Muslimah Linashri Ad-Da'wah wa Al-Islam (UMLADI)
Union of Progressive Students
United Bangsamoro Youth Organization
United Group of Active Youth Association
United Indigenous Peoples Youth Organization
United Voices for Peace Network (UVPN)
United Youth Action Group Datu Paglas
United Youth Development Association
United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD coastal)
University of Makati - College of Business and Financial Science Student Council
UP Capizeno
UP Paralegal Volunteers Organization
USAD - Ateneo de Zamboanga University
USAID - Antipolo
UST AMV ASSET - Alliance for Student Service, Equity, and Truth
USTP CDO Alumni Association
UTOPIA - Society of BA Political Science
Voice of the Youth for Social Transformation (VYST)
Vote Pilipinas
We Care Organization
We the Youth Vote
Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs, Inc. (WEVNET)
WeTheFuturePH
Women of War - Youth Sector
Women's Business Council Philippines, Inc. (WomenBizPH)
WVSU-3S' SOCIETY
YOUActive
YOUActive Barotac Viejo
Young Centrists Union
Young Visionaries of Basilan



Youth Ablaze
Youth Advocate for Community Development
Youth Advocates for Change, Transformation, and Sustainability (Youth ACTS)
Youth and Student for Peace
Youth Congress of Pangasinan
Youth Development for Patikul Association
Youth Empowering Youth Initiative
Youth Empowerment Society
Youth for Peace Movement - TALBOS
Youth of Lanao Onwards
Youth Strike 4 Climate Philippines
YouthVote Philippines
Zonta Club of Metro Ortigas

As of 27 May 2021