

“MAPping th Future” *Column in INQUIRER*



***“Re-Shaping Corporate Volunteerism
during COVID-19”***

December 6, 2021

Atty. GIANNA R. MONTINOLA

International Volunteer Day is celebrated globally every 5th day of December. In the last 2 years, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to re-shape how we volunteer.

Central to volunteerism are relationships forged from physical interaction among volunteers and beneficiaries, NGO partners, donors and sponsors. Sadly, medical risks now severely hamper all face-to-face interactions, obliging us to re-invent ways we can volunteer safely.

In the last 20 years, Hands on Manila Foundation, Inc. (HOM) (www.handsonmanila.org.ph), a volunteer management organization, has helped corporations develop and execute bespoke corporate service programs that focus on education, the environment, livelihood and health care. It continues to pursue its vision to develop sustainable programs that contribute to nation building. Studies have shown that corporate volunteering, compared to other Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives like sponsorships and donations, has resulted in higher productivity, has reduced absenteeism and has contributed to higher job satisfaction -- all factors that collectively benefit employers themselves. (The Deloitte 2011 Volunteer IMPACT Survey)

HOM’s affiliation with Points of Light, U.S.A. (POL) (www.pointsoflight.org), the world’s largest volunteer organization, is especially beneficial during these unprecedented times. POL affiliates all over the world continue to share successful volunteer models. In collaboration with Singapore affiliate EMPACT, HOM conducted sessions on needs assessment and project scoping with Macquarie

employees in Manila. Beneficiaries were Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Concordia Children Services, Inc. and the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul.

SKILLS VOLUNTEERING has become popular because it allows employees to share their expertise with NGOs, whether these be accounting, marketing and communication or fundraising. Apart from increased employee engagement, these acts of service also offer employees opportunities to hone skills knowledge and to have other avenues for social interaction.

Upon introduction of HandsON Hong Kong, Knownium, a training consultancy conducted a series of 3 workshops on (1) Speaking to Persuade, (2) Effective Virtual Communication and (3) Effective Excellence and Leadership for 7 HOM beneficiary public schools and 3 NGOs.

At the onset of the pandemic, HOM, under its OPLAN HATID LABAN SA COVID-19 program, organized volunteer drivers to deliver face masks, face shields and protective personal equipment (PPE) donated by companies and individuals for medical front liners in hospitals. American Express packed and delivered bags of groceries to a community of women, hygiene and PPE kits to the Jose Reyes hospital and distributed much-needed learning materials to the Dr. Albert Elementary School, Manila. They also provided hygiene kits and medical support to people living with HIV.

Mondelez distributed food products to public schools and shelters for children and the elderly. With the help of a POL grant, Mondelez also conducted arts and crafts sessions for 200 employees. POL likewise provided a grant for hygiene and PPE kits for the Nueve de Febrero Elementary School in Mandaluyong.

For 2 years, HOM's Servathon (Service Marathon) mobilized companies and organizations-- American Express, BPI Foundation, EON, FEU, ICTSI Foundation, LSEG, One Meralco Foundation, Northern Trust, Rockwell Land Corporation, Romulo Law, True Value, Wells Fargo, WEnergy, and Zendesk -- to support the creation of sustainable vegetable gardens in public schools to help alleviate hunger. Employee volunteers were thrilled to get away from their daily computer routines to paint pots and signages for these gardens from the safety of their homes. Beneficiary school volunteers helped establish these gardens, maintain the same, and share the produce in their communities. It is hoped that the produce generated can be used for nutritious meals for the students when face-to-face classes resume. Seedlings are also propagated and distributed to surrounding families to encourage urban food gardens.

On the occasion of the international event Good Deeds Day, patrons donated food ingredients for over 7000 meals that were distributed to street dwellers in Manila in partnership with the AJ Kalinga Foundation Inc. Again, volunteers cooked these meals from their individual homes and establishments, observing all the necessary safety protocols.

The silver lining in all this is that VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING has allowed us to operate beyond geographic boundaries. Our audiences and networks expanded as we shifted from local in-person activities to projects and events all over the world. Time

and travel challenges no longer existed, as volunteering could now take place even in one's backyard.

Employers also focused on the most vulnerable in their companies and communities, finding innovative solutions to systemic problems. Service models were adapted to changing times, forcing everyone to view the bigger picture and to help make our world a better place.

Companies should view corporate volunteerism the same way they view their businesses. Many say that the effects of COVID-19 will not disappear in the near future, hence the need to develop both short-term and long-term approaches to the shifting playing field. Changes like work-from-home and virtual volunteering look like they are here to stay. It will be beneficial for companies to develop a hybrid system of programs with partial in-person and remote volunteering options, or a mix of both.

Whatever the future brings, Hands On Manila will remain committed to its mission to mobilize people to address the critical social, educational, health and environmental needs in our country through volunteer action in the years to come.

We encourage all of you to join us by sharing your time, talent and treasure and to continue to BE HANDS ON!

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author is Co-Founder of Hands on Manila Foundation, and Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs of Far Eastern University. Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <grm@feu.edu.ph>).

“MAP Insights” Column in BUSINESSWORLD



“In Aid of Legislation”

December 7, 2021

Mr. RAYMOND “Mon” A. ABREA

“Public office is a public trust” is enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Congress plays a crucial role in upholding accountability and check and balance in both executive and judicial branches of the government.

An investigation in aid of legislation is indeed necessary to avoid any possible tax evasion, smuggling, graft and corruption or money laundering, especially in government procurement or spending of taxpayer's money during a pandemic.

The Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) presided by Senator Dick Gordon conducted its fifteenth public hearing on Friday, November 26, 2021 on the 2020 COA Report and other issues related to budget utilization of the Department of Health (DOH), especially its expenditures related to the fight against COVID.

While the investigation is far from over, the Senate Blue Ribbon already released an initial report and filed cases against those who are responsible for the procurement of the alleged overpriced face masks, face shields and other medical supplies.

In the last fourteen hearings, due diligence has been underscored as mandatory and indispensable for any government agency and/or officials in spending public funds even during a state of emergency. While Bayanihan 1 allows an “expeditious” manner of procurement, the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184) must not be totally disregarded in the exercise of due diligence.

Unfortunately, Data Privacy Act (RA 10173) and Bank Secrecy Law (RA 1405) have been invoked by the officers of Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation to evade providing information to verify the facts and uncover the truth. Although the National Privacy Commission has already issued an official statement clarifying that the Data Privacy Act cannot be invoked in refusing to submit subpoenaed documents, the Senate Blue Ribbon has yet to secure required financial documents to expedite the investigation.

The Philippines is among the only three countries in the world that have ultra-strict bank secrecy laws. The other two countries are Lebanon and North Korea. This has to be repealed or lifted especially during fraud investigations whether on tax evasion or graft and corruption cases to prosecute violators particularly corrupt public officials who have been inadvertently benefiting from the bank secrecy.

But will Congress repeal the Bank Secrecy Law which might expose their alleged ill-gotten wealth?

As the investigation continues, several deficiencies, material misstatements and undisclosed information were cited. These would have been prevented if concerned government agencies were more strenuous and tax information was required to check the veracity of financial documents submitted without compromising ease of doing business.

In incorporating a company, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) must require Tax Identification Number (TIN) instead of passport number, latest income tax return, and bank statement as proof of financial capacity of incorporators/shareholders. Further, basic due diligence must be done before approving articles of incorporation (AOI) particularly on affiliate companies with the same directors, foreign investors or dummy incorporators and use of offshore accounts or illegal sources of capital.

Mandatory audit and investigations of government contractors and suppliers must also be conducted before issuing tax clearance, which is required to join government bidding.

Evidently, the role of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) has been highlighted once again like in previous cases involving tax evasion, graft and corruption, and other fraudulent activities. Needless to say, the accountants and auditors are equally responsible for filing fraudulent tax returns or audited financial statements with material misstatements.

Section 253 of the tax code provides automatic revocation or cancellation of a CPA license upon conviction of tax evasion. However, this does not apply to accountants and auditors working for individuals or companies violating the tax code.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) must include both accountants and auditors who prepared and audited the financial statements and fraudulent tax returns, in filing tax evasion case/s against offenders. This will send a strong message to everyone, especially CPAs that violations of the tax code is a serious civil and criminal offense.

Further, Section 253 of the tax code includes that, “if the offender is a public officer or employee, the maximum penalty prescribed for the offense shall be imposed and, in addition, he shall be dismissed from the public service and perpetually disqualified from holding any public office, to vote and to participate in any election.”

For foreigners doing business in the Philippines, they shall be deported immediately after serving the sentence without further proceedings for deportation if found guilty of tax evasion.

In spite of these, tax evaders and offenders seem fearless and heartless, while others even aspire for higher government positions.

The Senate Blue Ribbon has an immense responsibility to shed light on all these allegations by continuing the investigation in aid of legislation and enact laws which will uphold the constitution i.e., “PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST.”

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author is Member of the MAP Ease of Doing Business Committee, Founding Chair and Senior Tax Advisor of Asian Consulting Group and Co-Chair of Paying Taxes – EODB Task Force. He is Trustee of Center for Strategic Reforms of the Philippines – the advocacy partner of the BIR, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) on ease of doing business and tax reform. Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <mon@acg.ph>.

News Release on December 1, 2021 entitled “FRED PASCUAL is MAP President for 2022”

NEWS RELEASE

December 1, 2021

FRED PASCUAL is MAP President for 2022

Mr. ALFREDO “Fred” ESPINOSA PASCUAL is the President of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) for 2022. Mr. Pascual is the 73rd President of the MAP since its inception in 1950.



A governance advocate, Mr. Pascual currently serves as the Lead Independent Director (ID) at SM Investments Corp. He is also an ID at other publicly-listed companies, including Megawide Construction and Concepcion Industrial. His board seats include nonprofits and other organizations, such as Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), FINEX Academy, University of the Philippines (UP) Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, and US-Philippines Society. He led ICD as President and CEO in 2018-2019.

From 2011-2017, he served as President and Co-Chair of UP, a system comprised of 8 constituent universities with 17 campuses across the country. He spearheaded ambitious reforms and innovative programs to transform UP into a research-intensive university, raise its international standing, and strengthen its public service capabilities. He enabled UP to generate significant increases in financial resources from government budget allocations, private donations, and income-generating projects. Extensive modernization and expansion of the campuses' physical facilities, research laboratories, cyber-infrastructure, and information systems became possible under his leadership.

Before becoming UP President, he was Alumni Regent on the UP Board. He also served as Trustee at International Rice Research Institute and Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Prior to becoming an academic leader, he worked at Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 19 years (1989-2008) in various positions, including Director for Private Sector Operations, Director for Project Finance, Advisor for Public-Private Partnership, and Senior Investment Officer. He authored a strategy that provided the framework for ADB's efforts to promote the private sector as the engine of economic growth. He oversaw various infrastructure and financial sector projects in several Asian countries, such as China, India, Vietnam, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, and Afghanistan.

He had postings at ADB's resident offices in India and Indonesia. He represented ADB on the corporate boards of over a dozen investee companies (e.g., banks, funds, financial institutions, and manufacturing firms) in China, India, and the Philippines.

Earlier on, Mr. Pascual took a management educator role in the 1980s as finance professor at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). His duties at AIM included the directorship of the Advanced Bank Management Program.

At present, his other affiliations include being a member and Past President of Rotary Club of Makati, honorary member of Philippine-American Association of Scientists and Engineers (PAASE), and President of the global Association of Former Employees of ADB.

He graduated from UP with an MBA and a BS Chemistry (*cum laude*). UP and four other universities have conferred honorary doctorates on him. His other recent honors include the Philippine Presidential *Lingkod Bayan* Award, CEO Excel Award from IABC PH, Asia Circle of Excellence for Global Filipino Executives, UP Alumni Association Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award, and Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education.

The other MAP officers for 2022 are Dr. DONALD LIM, COO, DITO CME Holdings, Inc., as VP; Mr. WILSON TAN, Chair and Country Managing Partner, SGV & Co., as Treasurer; Mr. ROMY BERNARDO, Managing Director, Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates, as Asst. Treasurer; Ms. MAAN HONTIVEROS, Managing Director, CEO Advisors, Inc., as Secretary; and Atty. ALEX CABRERA, Chair Emeritus and ESG Leader, Isla Lipana & Co./PwC Philippines, as Asst. Secretary.

The other MAP Governors are Dr. CIEL HABITO, Chair, Brain Trust, Inc.; Dr. CHITO SALAZAR, President and CEO, PHINMA Education Holdings Inc.; and Sec. BABES SINGSON, President and CEO, Metro Pacific Water.

**Dr. CHITO SALAZAR will replace
Mrs. VICKY GARCHITORENA - ARPON
as MAP Governor for 2022 - 2023**



*Ramon V. Del Rosario Sr. Center for Management Excellence
Unit 608, Ayala Tower One
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 7751-1150 to 52
E-Mail: map.map@map.org.ph
MAP Website: map.net.ph*

December 2, 2021

Circular No. 131 – 2021

**Subject: Dr. CHITO SALAZAR will replace
Mrs. VICKY GARCHITORENA - ARPON
as MAP Governor for 2022 - 2023**

Dear Fellow MAP Member:

Mrs. VICTORIA “Vicky” P. GARCHITORENA - ARPON has resigned as MAP Governor for 2022 - 2023 due to health reasons.

Article III Section 8 of the MAP by-laws provides that “*Vacancies in the Board of Governors shall be filled by the candidate(s) receiving the next highest number of votes among the candidates for the Board in the latest election; such appointee(s) shall serve only for the duration of the unexpired term of the individual(s) being replaced or until the next regular election.*”

Since Dr. MELITON “Chito” B. SALAZAR, JR. placed fifth in the recent election of MAP Governors for 2022 - 2023, he will serve on the 2022 MAP Board for Mrs. Garchitorea - Arpon’s term (January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023).

In this regard, we hereby formally announce the election of the following as MAP Governor for 2022 - 2023:



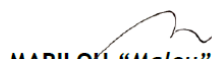
Dr. MELITON “Chito” B. SALAZAR, JR.


Chief Operating Officer, PHINMA
President and CEO, PHINMA Education Holdings Inc.

Let us all continue to work together in pursuing the MAP’s mission of promoting management excellence for nation-building.

Thank you. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,


MARILOU “Malou” C. CRISTOBAL
Chair, MAP Nomination and Election
Committee (NOMELEC)


MEDEL “Ding” T. NERA
Vice Chair, MAP NOMELEC

Joint Statement and Commitment Against Disinformation and Hate Speech in Social Media and Other Platforms

Statement Against Disinformation and Hate Speech in Social Media and Other Platforms

Together with other members of society, the business community has watched with concern how social media, media, and other platforms have been abused by multiple parties in recent years. They have been used to spread disinformation and hate speech, resulting in erroneous beliefs, confusion, and division. We are losing the trust and unity we need to work together to better our lives, livelihoods, and society especially amid the pandemic crisis.

We watch with alarm how this abuse has spiked during this election season. We fear the damage may be long-lasting.

The abuse comprises lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, "red-tagging," and many more, sometimes putting people at risk of physical harm.

We call on **political players** to consider what they are doing to the country and to individuals, pledge not to engage in such abuse, and exhort their supporters to remain civil as well. We call on **operators of social media and other platforms** to consider what they are allowing to happen, and declare to their users and the public the steps they are taking to stop or curtail this.

For our part, we realize that the business sector plays a significant role here through advertising spending. While continuing to advocate and defend media freedom, we encourage businesses to evaluate the platforms they advertise in -- including social media, messaging apps, broadcast, and print -- in terms of whether and how much disinformation and hate speech they allow. We acknowledge some of the platforms have taken steps to address this issue. We ask these platforms to more fully share with the public how they are addressing disinformation and hate speech, which may be a factor on where businesses feature their products and services, to reflect the values of their organizations.

We support ongoing efforts to create tools that businesses and advertisers can use to assist them in this evaluation in the near future, but commit to taking first steps now.

Finally we call on **our countrymen and women** to evaluate political players as well as these media and communications platforms on these same terms, and use their votes and clicks to promote truth and civility in the coming elections. **(Dec. 6, 2021)**

1. Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP)
2. Cebu Business Council (CBC)
3. Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB)
4. Energy Lawyers Asso of the Phils. (ELAP)
5. Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCI)
6. Filipina CEO Circle (FCC)
7. Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)
8. Integrity Initiative Inc.
9. Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (IHAP)
10. Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI)
11. Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
12. Makati Business Club (MBC)
13. Mindanao Business Council
14. Philippine Business for Education (PBEed)
15. Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)
16. Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA)
17. Philippine Retailers Association (PRA)
18. Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA)

News articles about the December 2, 2021 MAP News Release entitled “FRED PASCUAL is MAP President for 2022”

1. **“Alfredo Pascual named next president of MAP”**

by Tyrone Jasper C. Piad

BusinessMirror

December 2, 2021

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) will be led next year by Alfredo Espinosa Pascual, a business leader who has involvement in various corporations and nonprofit organizations.

The 73rd president of the business group brings with him years of experience in the industry, not only in the corporate world but also the academe. He is succeeding Far Eastern University Chair Aurelio Luis R. Montinola III.

Pascual is currently the lead independent director (ID) at SM Investment Corp. In addition, he is an ID for Megawide Construction and Concepcion Industrial.

He is a board member in Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Institute for Solidarity in Asia, FINEX Academy, University of the Philippines (UP) Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, and US-Philippines Society. In 2018 to 2019, he was ICD’s president and chief executive officer.

The MAP official served as president and co-chair of UP from 2011 to 2017, launching reforms and programs that helped the university to become research-intensive, in addition to raising its international ranking.

“He enabled UP to generate significant increases in financial resources from government budget allocations, private donations, and income-generating projects,” MAP said. “Extensive modernization and expansion of the campuses’ physical facilities, research laboratories, cyber-infrastructure, and information systems became possible under his leadership.”

Pascual was also a trustee at the International Rice Research Institute and Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Prior to his UP stint, Pascual took on several positions at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for nearly two decades. These include Director for Private Sector Operations, Director for Project Finance, Advisor for Public-Private Partnership, and Senior Investment Officer.

He crafted a strategy that provided the framework for ADB’s initiative in promoting the private sector as an economic growth driver. He also looked after several infrastructure and financial sector projects in the Philippines, China, India, Vietnam, Pakistan, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

In the 1980s, he also served at Asian Institute of Management as in management educator role as finance professor.

His other affiliations include membership in Rotary Club of Makati and the Philippine-American Association of Scientists and Engineers. He is also president of the global Association of Former Employees of ADB.

Pascual completed his Masters in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (cum laude) from UP. He was conferred honorary doctorates by his alma mater and four other universities.

Other officials leading MAP next year are DITO CME Holdings Inc. Chief Operating Officer Donald Lim, Vice President; SGV & Co. Chair and Country Managing Partner Wilson Tan, Treasurer; Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates Managing Director Romy Bernardo, Assistant Treasurer; CEO Advisors Inc. Managing Director Maan Hontiveros, Secretary; and Isla Lipana & Co. Chair Emeritus Alex Cabrera, Assistant Secretary.

MAP Governors include Brain Trust Inc. Chair Ciel Habito, Phinma Education Network President Chito Salazar and Metro Pacific Water President Babes Singson.

2. “MAP appoints Pascual president for 2022”

by Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

BusinessWorld

December 3, 2021

THE Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) said Alfredo E. Pascual will serve as its president for 2022.

MAP said in a statement Thursday that Mr. Pascual will become the association’s 73rd president since its founding in 1950.

Mr. Pascual is currently the lead independent director at SM Investments Corp., Megawide Construction Corp., and Concepcion Industrial Corp.

“His board seats include nonprofits and other organizations, such as Institute of Corporate Directors, Institute for Solidarity in Asia, FINEX Academy, University of the Philippines (UP) Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, and the US-Philippines Society,” MAP said.

Mr. Pascual is also former president of the Rotary Club of Makati, an honorary member of Philippine-American Association of Scientists and Engineers (PAASE), and president of the global association of former employees of the Asian Development Bank.

Between 2011 and 2017, Mr. Pascual was the president and co-chair of the UP System. Prior to becoming the UP President, he was the alumni regent on the UP Board and also served as a trustee at the International Rice Research Institute and Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Other MAP officers for 2022 were Donald Patrick L. Lim, chief operating officer of DITO CME Holdings, Inc., vice-president; Wilson P. Tan, chair and country managing partner of SGV & Co., treasurer; Romeo L. Bernardo, managing director of Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates, assistant treasurer; Marianne B. Hontiveros, managing director of CEO Advisors, Inc., secretary; and Alexander B. Cabrera, chair emeritus and environmental, social, and governance leader of Isla Lipana & Co. and PwC Philippines, assistant secretary.

Other MAP governors are Cielito F. Habito, chair of Brain Trust, Inc., Meliton B. Salazar, Jr., president of PHINMA Education Network; and Rogelio L. Singson, president and CEO of Metro Pacific Water. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

**3. “Pascual elected 2022 MAP president”
by Karl R. Ocampo
Philippine Daily Inquirer
December 4, 2021**

International development banker and finance expert Alfredo “Fred” Espinosa Pascual has been elected as the new president of the influential professional organization Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) for 2022.

This makes Pascual the 73rd president of MAP since its inception in 1950. He succeeds retired banker Aurelio Montinola III.

Pascual currently serves as the lead independent director at SM Investments Corp., including other publicly-listed companies such as Megawide Construction and Concepcion Industrial.

His board seats also include nonprofits and other organizations like the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Institute for Solidarity in Asia, Finex Academy, University of the Philippines Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations and the US-Philippines Society.

He was also ICD’s president and CEO from 2018 to 2019.

Between 2011 and 2017, Pascual also served as president and cochair of UP, a system comprised of eight constituent universities with 17 campuses across the country.

During his stint, he spearheaded initiatives that transformed UP into a research-intensive university and raised its international standing.

Pascual also enabled UP to increase its financial resources through government budget allocations, private donations, and income-generating projects. Prior to that, he was also Alumni Regent on the UP Board and served as a Trustee at the International Rice Research Institute and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

He graduated from UP with an MBA and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He was conferred honorary doctors by UP and other four universities.

His other recent honors include the Philippine Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, CEO Excel Award from IABC PH, Asia Circle of Excellence for Global Filipino Executive, UP Alumni Association Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award, and Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education.

Donald Lim, COO of Dito CME Holdings, Inc., is vice president of MAP for this year.

Wilson Tan, SGV & Co. Chair and Country Managing Partner, is treasurer, while CEO Advisors managing director Marianne Hontiveros is secretary. Alex Cabrera, chair emeritus and ESG leader of PwC Philippines, is assistant secretary, and Romy Bernardo, managing director at Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates is assistant treasurer.

The other MAP governors are: Cielito Habito (Brain Trust Inc. chair), Chito Salazar (Phinma Education Network president), and Babes Singson (Metro Pacific Water president and CEO).

4. “Pascual named MAP president”
by Louella Desiderio
The Philippine Star
December 3, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) has named Alfredo “Fred” Pascual as its president for 2022.

Pascual, who succeeds Aurelio Montinola III, is the group's 73rd president since it was formed in 1950.

A former president and co-chair of the University of the Philippines, Pascual currently serves as lead independent director at SM Investments Corp, as well as independent director of other publicly listed companies such as Megawide Construction Corp. and Concepcion Industrial Corp.

He also sits on the board of the Institute of Corporate Directors, Institute for Solidarity in Asia, FINEX Academy, University of the Philippines (UP) Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, and US-Philippines Society.

His other affiliations include being a member and past president of Rotary Club of Makati, honorary member of Philippine-American Association of Scientists and Engineers, and president of the global Association of Former Employees of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

During his term as UP president from 2011 to 2017, he initiated reforms to transform the institution into a research-intensive university, raise its international standing, and strengthen its public service capabilities.

Under his leadership, UP saw financial resources from the government budget, private donations, and income-generating projects increase, and the campuses were also modernized and expanded.

Prior to becoming UP president, he was Alumni Regent on the UP Board and served as trustee at the International Rice Research Institute and Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Before serving as an academic leader, he worked at ADB for 19 years in different capacities including director for private sector operations, director for project finance, advisor for public-private partnership, and senior investment officer.

Aside from being behind a strategy providing the framework for ADB's efforts to promote the private sector as an engine of economic growth, he was responsible for overseeing infrastructure and financial sector projects in countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

In the 1980s, he was a finance professor at the Asian Institute of Management.

His recent awards include the Philippine Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, CEO Excel Award from International Association of Business Communicators Philippines, Asia Circle of Excellence for Global Filipino Executives, UP Alumni Association Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award, and Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education.

Pascual graduated from UP with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the same university.

Apart from Pascual, MAP's other officers for next year are: Donald Lim, chief operating officer of Dito CME Holdings Inc., as vice president; Wilson Tan, chair and country managing partner of SGV & Co., treasurer; Romeo Bernardo, managing director of Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates, assistant treasurer; Marianne Hontiveros, managing director of CEO Advisors Inc., secretary; and Alex Cabrera, chair emeritus of Isla Lipana & Co./PwC Philippines, assistant secretary.

MAP's governors for next year include Cielito Habito, chair of Brain Trust Inc.; Chito Salazar, president of PHINMA Education Network; and Rogelio Singson, president and CEO of Metro Pacific Water.

5. "Pascual elected MAP president"

by Anna Leah E. Gonzales
The Manila Times
December 3, 2021

FORMER University of the Philippines President Alfredo "Fred" Pascual has been elected as the president of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

In a statement on Thursday, MAP said Pascual is the 73rd president of the organization since its inception in 1950.

Pascual currently serves as the Lead Independent Director (ID) at SM Investments Corp. He is also an ID at Megawide Construction and Concepcion Industrial.

His board seats include nonprofits and other organizations, such as Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Institute for Solidarity in Asia, FINEX Academy, University of the Philippines Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, and US-Philippines Society. He led ICD as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2018-2019.

At present, his other affiliations include being a member and Past President of Rotary Club of Makati, honorary member of Philippine-American Association of Scientists and Engineers, and President of the global Association of Former Employees of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Pascual worked at Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1989 to 2008 in various positions, including Director for Private Sector Operations, Director for Project Finance, Advisor for Public-Private Partnership, and Senior Investment Officer.

He graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

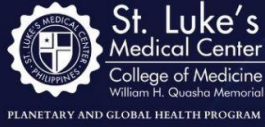
His other recent honors include the Philippine Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, CEO Excel Award from IABC PH, Asia Circle of Excellence for Global Filipino Executives, UP Alumni Association Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award, and Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Higher Education.

Meanwhile, other MAP officers for 2022 are Donald Lim, chief operating officer, DITO CME Holdings, Inc., as vice president; Wilson Tan, chair and country managing partner, SGV & Co., as treasurer; Romy Bernardo, managing director, Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates, as assistant treasurer; Maan Hontiveros, managing director, CEO Advisors, Inc., as secretary; and Alex Cabrera, chair emeritus and ESG leader, Isla Lipana & Co./PwC Philippines, as assistant secretary.

The other MAP Governors are Ciel Habito, chair, Brain Trust Inc.; Chito Salazar, president, PHINMA Education Network; and Babes Singson, president and CEO, Metro Pacific Water.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



The Future of Universal Health Care Conversation Webinar



Wednesday, December 8, 2021
4:00 PM -5:30 PM Manila Time

Register at bit.ly/stlukesUHC



Dr. Manuel Dayrit
Former Secretary of Health



Dr. Anthony Faraon
Vice President,
Zuellig Family Foundation



Dr. Michael Caampued
President, Philippine Society
of Public Health Physicians



Dr. Maria Socorro Santos
OIC-Chief, Health Planning
Division, Department of Health



Ms. Maria Fatima "Girle" Garcia-Lorenzo
President, Philippine Alliance of
Patient Organizations



Dr. Maria Carissa Alejandro
Chief Public Health Officer,
AC Health



Moderator: Dr. Renzo Guinto
Associate Professor of the Practice of Global Public Health
Inaugural Director, Planetary and Global Health Program
St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine-
William H. Quasha Memorial





9th of the First-Ever
MAP Monthly Arts and Culture Lecture Series

APPRECIATING THE TASTE AND BOUQUET OF WINE: Beyond Sipping, Swishing, and Drinking

December 9, 2021, Thursday, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM via ZOOM

There is more to wine than just sipping, swishing, and drinking. Join this session to find out that there is more to it!



Postponed to First Quarter of 2022

Speaker:

Mr. JAY LABRADOR

President, International Wine and Food Society, Philippines Branch

Chair:



Mr. EDUARDO "Eddie" H. YAP

Chair, MAP Arts and Culture Committee
President and CEO, Clairmont Group

A Project of the MAP Arts & Culture Committee

Meeting ID : 825 5828 9812
Passcode : MAPLEC129

This Lecture is FREE for
MAP Members and Guests.
MAP Circular No. 128 - 2021

You are invited to a Free REPRISE of THE BEST OF



December 14, 2021, Tuesday, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM via ZOOM

Condensed from the following:

**Adeste Fideles
at Santuario de San Antonio**

Featuring
OTONIEL GONZAGA

with the special participation of
**CAMILLE LOPEZ-MOLINA
RACHELLE GERODIAS
KARLA GUTIERREZ**

GEORGE YANG

ALEJANDRO CONSOLACION II, *Organist*

**CORO DE SAN ANTONIO
CORO TOMASINO
CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE YOUTH CHOIR
PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM MANDALUYONG
THE MANILA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

Conductor
RODEL COLMENAR

***Produced by:*
Mr. EDUARDO "Eddie" YAP
for MAP**

***Presented by:*
MAP Arts and Culture Committee**

**Adeste Fideles
at PICC Plenary Hall**

Featuring
**RACHELLE GERODIAS
KARLA GUTIERREZ
ELAINE LEE
NOLYN CABAUG
ABDUL CANDAO
RANDY GILONGO**

with the special participation of
**SHERWIN SOZON
JENNIFER UY
GEORGE YANG
and
VINA MORALES**

**PHILIPPINE MADRIGAL SINGERS
CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE YOUTH CHOIR
METRO MANILA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**

Conductor
JOSEFINO CHINO TOLEDO





**73rd MAP INAUGURAL MEETING 2022
and
INDUCTION OF 2022 MAP BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

January 13, 2022, Thursday
12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
via ZOOM



MAP President for 2022:

**Mr. ALFREDO "Fred"
E. PASCUAL**

Lead Independent Director
SM Investments Corporation



Guest Speaker and Inducting Officer:

**Governor BENJAMIN "Ben"
E. DIOKNO**

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

This event is FREE for MAP Members and Guests.

Webinar ID : 821 4054 1799
Passcode : MAPGMM113

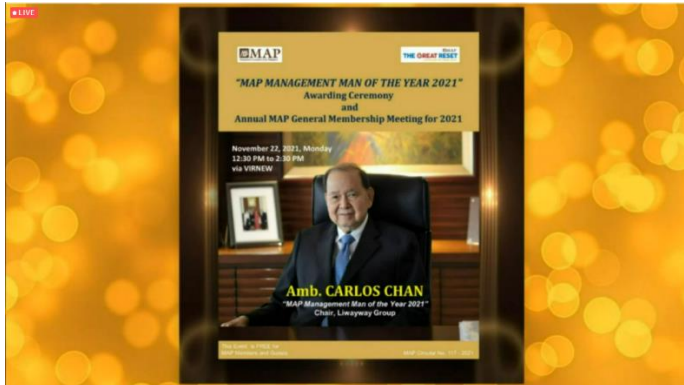
MAP Circular No. 130 - 2021

MAP Talks on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheMAPph>

<https://web.facebook.com/map.org.ph>

Video recording of November 22, 2021 “MAP Management Man of the Year 2021” Awarding Ceremony and MAP Annual General Membership Meeting



<https://www.facebook.com/map.org.ph/videos/326360865554281>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlwo8hGMTpo>

Video Recording of 2nd MAP NextGen Conference

1. **November 12, 2021** MAP NextGen CEO Conference on “The Good NextGen CEO: Steward of the Future”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMd6j1EqXgA>

Video Recordings of MAP GMMs

2. **October 25, 2021** MAP Special General Membership Meeting on “Ensuring Clean, Honest, Accurate, Meaningful and Peaceful Elections” with COMELEC Commissioner MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Chair MYLA C. VILLANUEVA as speakers and Mr. AUGUSTO “Gus” C. LAGMAN, National Chair of National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), Atty. CHRISTIAN “Chris” S. MONSOD, Chair of Eleksyon 2022 Koalisyon, and Dr. RONALD “Ron” U. MENDOZA, Dean of Ateneo de Manila University - School of Government (ASOG)
3. **October 12, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "Addressing the Learning (Education) Crisis” with Secretary LEONOR M. BRIONES of the Department of Education (DepEd), Ms. RINA LOPEZ BAUTISTA, Co-Founder and President of Knowledge Channel Foundation, and Mr. RAMON R. DEL ROSARIO, JR., Chair of Philippine Business for Education (PBE)
4. **September 7, 2021** MAP-PMAP Annual Joint General Membership Meeting (GMM) on “Leap-frogging Digital Talent Development” with Ms. JO ANN ROSARY ASETRE, APAC Customer Success Manager of Lee Hecht Harrison, Usec. EMMANUEL REY R. CAINTIC, Undersecretary for Digital Philippines of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Sec. FORTUNATO T. DE LA PEÑA of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Mr. REX WALLEN TAN, General Manager of Hopkins International Partners, Inc., and EurIng. HENRY K. H. WANG, International Advisor and Author, President of Gate International and Member of G20/B20 Global Taskforce, as speakers
5. **August 25, 2021** MAP Special GMM on “ADDRESSING THE COUNTRY’S HUNGER PROBLEM” with Cabinet Secretary KARLO A.B. NOGRALES, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) President REYNALDO ANTONIO D. LAGUDA, and Ms. MARGOT TORRES, Private Sector Lead of *Pilipinas Kontra Gutom!* As speakers; and *Tanging Yaman* Foundation Chair, Fr. MANUEL V. FRANCISCO, S.J.!, Brain Trust, Inc. Chair, Dr. CIELITO F. HABITO, and Maginhawa Community Pantry Founder ANA PATRICIA NON as Reactors
6. **August 18, 2021** MAP Arts & Culture Lecture and Virtual Tour of “*HERITAGE AND ANCESTRAL HOMES*” featuring Ms. JOVY ACUZAR, Corporate Marketing Director of *Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar*, and Mr. DEXTER MANANSALA, Arts & Culture Director of *Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar*
7. **August 10, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on “ENSURING THE COUNTRY’S ENERGY SECURITY” with Sen. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN, Chair of Senate Committee on Energy, as the main speaker and Atty. RAY C. ESPINOSA, President and CEO of MERALCO, Atty. JOSE M. LAYUG, JR., President of Developers of Renewable Energy for AdvanceMent, Inc. (DREAM), and Atty. ANNE E. MONTELIBANO, President of Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (PIPPA), as Reactors

7. **July 13 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on “Governance Champions: HOW INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS CREATE VALUE?” with Atty. ANGELICA “Nenet” LAVARES, Director of Metrobank and Prulife UK; Mr. ALFREDO “Fred” E. PASCUAL, Lead Independent Director of SM Investments Corporation, Ms. FLORENCIA “Flor” G. TARRIELA, Former Independent Director and Board Chairwoman of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) and the first and only Independent Director Chairwoman in the Commercial Banking Industry; and Mr. ROMAN ZYLA, Senior Corporate Governance Officer and currently the Regional Corporate Governance Lead for East Asia Pacific of the International Finance Corporation; as Panelists; and Mr. JONATHAN JUAN “JJ” DC. MORENO, Co-Vice Chair of the MAP Corporate Governance Committee and Chief Strategy and Governance Officer of Metro Retail Stores Group, Inc. (MRSGI), as Emcee/Moderator.

8. **June 8, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS" with Deputy Speaker LOREN LEGARDA, Representative of Lone District of Antique of House of Representatives, Mayor ANDRES “Andy” D. DANGEROS, Mayor of Municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, and Mr. ILLAC ANGELO “Illac” A. DIAZ, Founder and Executive Director, LITER of Light and MyShelter Foundation

Video Recording of the September 14, 2021 MAP International CEO Conference



FACEBOOK - <https://www.facebook.com/map.org.ph/videos/914003119213053>
YOUTUBE – www.youtube.com/TheMAPph
Speakers’ presentations <https://mapceoconference.ph>

Article/Paper from MAP Members

1. **“Educated by the voters”**
 from MAP Governor for 2022 CIELITO “Ciel” F. HABITO’s
 “No Free Lunch” Column in the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER on
 December 7, 2021

I always feel discomfort when I hear talk about the need for “voter education,” usually in the context of lamenting the nature of the candidates who tend to get the strongest support from the Filipino voting public. We hear terms like “bobotante” and “tanggap masa” in such conversations, especially now as we again prepare to choose new leaders in 2022.

There's no denying that we've seen elected into office too many people with reputations for vote buying, thievery, plunder, immorality, and even murder; show business or sports personalities and other public celebrities with no known qualifications for governance; and even returning officials with past records of incompetence and nonperformance. A quote attributed to former Singapore leader Lee Kuan Yew made the rounds in social media years ago, where he supposedly called Filipinos "stupid" for perennially voting bad leaders into office.

Calls for "voter education" strike me as presumptuous, even bordering on arrogance. To me, the Filipinos' supposed lack of political maturity reflects a failure in the system that ultimately points the finger back at society's economic and/or intellectual elite. I'm not the first to point out that those who want voters to be "educated" could well be the ones needing to be educated by those they want "educated." What has been missing perhaps is for the country's elite and even middle class to listen more and engage more with the so-called "bobotante," whom we have collectively failed and neglected. After all, how they cast their votes would have a legitimate motivation behind it.

For some, it is persistent poverty that leads them to keep looking for leaders who can promise immediate relief—including wads of cash and promises of more to come. That is one of the strong attractions of the candidate with whom many seem to have fallen for the yarn that once elected, he will give away the immense riches their family amassed while in power. It is said that many in our elite actually prefer to perpetuate widespread poverty in our midst, appalling as that may sound, because it is through the patronage relationships it fosters by which they maintain their grip on power.

For thinking voters with a longer perspective, the motivation could be a long-simmering dissatisfaction with the existing order, and anyone who sounds like he/she can deliver drastic change would attract their support. Seeing little improvement in their lives across various presidencies, it's natural for common people to embrace leaders who break out of the familiar mold. But this one is not just about poor and less educated voters wanting to change the power balance in our society, in the hope of better lives for themselves. Let's not forget that the current leader many of us love to hate found his strongest support base from the ABC classes of voters and not the bottom ones, seduced by the promise of change, not knowing that it was going to happen in the wrong direction.

"What we see during elections," a writer once put it, "is an accumulation of the collective resentment, frustration, and even anger of many Filipinos from past years or even decades." It stems from the failure of society's political and economic elite to sufficiently uplift the lives of the wide majority left farther behind as they uplifted their own. And as has now emerged, our greatest failure could have well been in education in general, and with all the cross-country evidence at hand, there is no denying this. The fact that our country has found itself at the bottom of the list of countries ranked in the Programme for International Student Assessment—worst in reading and second to worst (to the Dominican Republic) in math and science—speaks for itself. Our education failure has been a huge impediment to achieving a progressive and inclusive economy and building a strong nation. Unless we change this fast, we are condemned to more of the same for time to come.

All told, the persistent call to "educate" voters is probably misplaced. Maybe we need to be "educated" by them first, to move us all to take a direct role in shaping a better future for the nation, and not count on one leader to do it.

cielito.habito@gmail.com

News articles about the December 6, 2021 Joint Statement and Commitment Against Disinformation and Hate Speech in Social Media and Other Platforms

1. “Business, political groups call for action vs disinformation, hate speech”
by **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**
BusinessWorld
December 6, 2021

BUSINESS GROUPS on Monday called for action from the private sector and other players involved in the 2022 presidential race to help address online disinformation and hate speech, as Philippine politics become more polarized.

In a statement, the groups said the business community has “watched with concern” how social media and other platforms have been used by different parties to spread disinformation and hate speech in recent years, “resulting in erroneous beliefs, confusion, and division.”

“We watch with alarm how this abuse has spiked during this election season,” they said in a statement, noting that the abuses comprise lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, communist-tagging, among other acts that put people at risk of physical harm.

“We fear the damage may be long-lasting.”

The groups urged businesses to evaluate the platforms they use for advertising “in terms of whether and how much disinformation and hate speech they allow.”

They also appealed to various media platforms to fully disclose how they are addressing disinformation and hate speech.

“We support ongoing efforts to create tools that businesses and advertisers can use to assist them in this evaluation in the near future, but commit to taking first steps now.”

The groups also urged politicians to not to engage in such abuses and exhort their supporters to remain civil.

“We call on operators of social media and other platforms to consider what they are allowing to happen, and declare to their users and the public the steps they are taking to stop or curtail this,” they said.

They also asked the public to evaluate politicians as well as media and communications platforms “and use their votes and clicks to promote truth and civility in the coming elections.”

The signatories of the statement include the Management Association of the Philippines, Bankers Association of the Philippines, Philippine Business for Education, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Retailers Association, Chamber of Thrift Banks, Energy Lawyers Association of the Phils., Federation of Filipino-Chinese

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Filipina CEO Circle, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Judicial Reform Initiative, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Cebu Business Council, Integrity Initiative Inc., Makati Business Club, Mindanao Business Council, and Subdivision and Housing Developers Association. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

2. “Business groups to members: Think twice about advertising on media platforms spreading fake news, hate speech, social media abuse”

Bilyonario
December 6, 2021

Some of the country’s biggest business organizations are proposing to hit legacy and social media companies spewing out disinformation and hate speech where it hurts the most – their advertising revenues.

The Makati Business Club (MBC), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and 16 other business organizations are urging corporations to be more discerning on their ad placements.

These groups are asking their members to shun legacy and social media platforms that engage in “lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, red-tagging, and sometimes putting people at risk of physical harm.”

“We realize that the business sector plays a significant role here through advertising spending. While continuing to advocate and defend media freedom, we encourage businesses to evaluate the platforms they advertise in — including social media, messaging apps, broadcast, and print — in terms of whether and how much disinformation and hate speech they allow,” the 18 business groups said in a statement.

“We acknowledge some of the platforms have taken steps to address this issue. We ask these platforms to more fully share with the public how they are addressing disinformation and hate speech, which may be a factor on where businesses feature their products and services, to reflect the values of their organizations. We support ongoing efforts to create tools that businesses and advertisers can use to assist them in this evaluation in the near future, but commit to taking first steps now,” the business groups added.

MBC, PCCI and other business groups fear that the “erroneous beliefs, confusion, and division” coming from these destructive platforms could cause “long-lasting damage” to the country if not addressed immediately.

The business groups believe that operators of social media and other platforms have the responsibility to curtail the abuses being made through their channels.

With fake news and hate speech rising with the onset of the election season, the business groups are also urging politikos not to engage in such abusive behavior and to tell their supporters to remain civil.

The other business groups who signed the statement are the :

- * Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP)
- * Cebu Business Council (CBC)
- * Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB)
- * Energy Lawyers Association of the Phils. (ELAP)
- * Filipina CEO Circle (FCC)
- * Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)
- * Integrity Initiative Inc.
- * Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (IHAP)
- * Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI)
- * Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
- * Mindanao Business Council
- * Philippine Business for Education (PBE)
- * Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI)
- * Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA)
- * Philippine Retailers Association (PRA)
- * Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA)

**3. “Business groups decry abuse, hate on social media ahead of Eleksyon 2022”
by JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS
GMA News
December 6, 2021**

Philippine business groups denounced disinformation and hate speech in social media ahead of the 2022 polls, which they said could have long-lasting effects moving forward. advertisement

In a statement released Monday, local business groups called on political players to consider the impact of their efforts in social media, and encouraged them not to engage in “abuse” and to urge their supporters to remain civil.

The business groups also called on operators of social media and other platforms to consider what they are allowing to happen, and to disclose to the public the steps they are taking to address such abuses.

“Together with other members of society, the business community has watched with concern how social media, media, and other platforms have been abused by multiple partners in recent years,” the statement read.

“They have been used to spread disinformation and hate speech, resulting in erroneous beliefs, confusion, and division. We are losing the trust and unity we need to work together to better our lives, livelihoods, and society especially amid the pandemic crisis,” it added.

The statement was signed by the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Cebu Business Council, the Chamber of Thrift Banks, the Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines, and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce of Industry.

Other signatories are the Filipina CEO Circle, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, the Integrity Initiative Inc., the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, and the Judicial Reform Initiative.

The statement was also signed by the Management Association of the Philippines, the Makati Business Club, the Mindanao Business Council, the Philippine Business Council, the Philippine Business for Education, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Life Insurance Association, the Philippine Retailers Association, and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

“We watch with alarm how this abuse has spiked during this election season. We fear the damage may be long-lasting,” the statement read.

“The abuse comprises lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, ‘red-tagging,’ and many more, sometimes pulling people at risk of physical harm,” it added.

The business sector acknowledged that it plays a significant role through advertising spending, and voiced support for ongoing efforts to create tools that businesses and advertisers can use to assist them in this evaluation in the near future.

“Finally, we call on our countrymen and women to evaluate political players as well as these media and communications platforms on these same terms, and use their votes and clicks to promote truth and civility in the coming elections,” the statement read.

Commission on Elections Spokesperson James Jimenez last week said it is “unlikely” for the 2022 polls to be canceled due to a COVID-19 surge, but noted that this could be postponed in certain areas.—LDF, GMA News

**4. “Business urged not to advertise in 'abusive' platforms”
by Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat
Manila Bulletin
December 6, 2021**

Businesses are urged to advertise only in media platforms that do not allow disinformation and hate speeches as they expressed alarm at the spike of abuse in press freedom during this election season.

About 20 business organizations have signed a joint statement to decry the proliferation of disinformation and hate speeches being peddled in social media and abused by multiple parties.

“Together with other members of society, the business community has watched with concern how social media, media, and other platforms have been abused by multiple parties in recent years. They have been used to spread disinformation and hate speech, resulting in erroneous beliefs, confusion, and division,” said the joint statement.

Realizing its role to fight this epidemic, 18 business groups said they have a significant role through advertising spending.

While continuing to advocate and defend media freedom, the groups encouraged businesses to “evaluate the platforms they advertise in — including social media, messaging apps, broadcast, and print — in terms of whether and how much disinformation and hate speech they allow.”

The groups urged these platforms to more fully share with the public how they are addressing disinformation and hate speech, which may be a factor on where businesses feature their products and services, to reflect the values of their organizations.

The groups also acknowledged some of the platforms have taken steps to address this issue. They also acknowledged ongoing efforts to create tools that businesses and advertisers can use to assist them in this evaluation in the near future, but commit to taking first steps now.

“We are losing the trust and unity we need to work together to better our lives, livelihoods, and society especially amid the pandemic crisis. We watch with alarm how this abuse has spiked during this election season. We fear the damage may be long-lasting,” the statement added.

The abuse comprises lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, ‘red-tagging,’ and many more, sometimes putting people at risk of physical harm, the business groups said.

“We call on political players to consider what they are doing to the country and to individuals, pledge not to engage in such abuse, and exhort their supporters to remain civil as well. We call on operators of social media and other platforms to consider what they are allowing to happen, and declare to their users and the public the steps they are taking to stop or curtail this,” the business groups added.

Finally, businesses also called on Filipinos to evaluate political players as well as these media and communications platforms on these same terms, and use their votes and clicks to promote truth and civility in the coming elections.

Signing the statement are Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), Cebu Business Council (CBC), Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB), Energy Lawyers Asso of the Phils. (ELAP), Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), Filipina CEO Circle (FCC), Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), Integrity Initiative Inc., Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (IHAP), Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI), Management Association of the Philippines

(MAP), Makati Business Club (MBC), Mindanao Business Council 14, Philippine Business for Education (PBEd), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA), Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), and Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA).

5. “Biz Groups To Pals: Stop False Info, Hate Speech”

by Louella Desiderio

The Philippine Star

December 7, 2021

“We call on political players to consider what they are doing to the country and to individuals, pledge not to engage in such abuse and exhort their supporters to remain civil as well,” the groups said in a joint statement on Monday, Dec. 6.

Business groups are calling on politicians not to engage in disinformation and hate speech on social media and other platforms, and to urge their supporters to do the same to stop the spread of abuse.

“We call on political players to consider what they are doing to the country and to individuals, pledge not to engage in such abuse and exhort their supporters to remain civil as well,” the groups said in a joint statement on Monday, Dec. 6.

The statement came from the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Cebu Business Council, Chamber of Thrift Banks, Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., Filipina CEO Circle, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Integrity Initiative, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Judicial Reform Initiative, Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Mindanao Business Council, Philippine Business for Education, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Life Insurance Association, Philippine Retailers Association and Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

The call was made as the groups raised concern over the spike in disinformation and hate speech in the different platforms during the election season.

The abuses include lies, personal attacks, trolling, misogyny, “red-tagging” which, at times, put some people at risk of physical harm.

“We fear the damage may be long-lasting,” the groups said.

Amid the pandemic, the groups emphasized the need for trust and unity to work together to improve lives and livelihoods. “We call on operators of social media and other platforms to consider what they are allowing to happen, and declare to their users and the public the steps they are taking to stop or curtail this,” the groups said.

The groups also urged businesses to help address the problem, given the role they play as they spend for advertisements.

While some platforms have taken steps, the groups said there is a need to fully share with the public how disinformation and hate speech are being addressed.

The groups said such measures may be used by businesses in deciding what platforms to engage with to feature their products and services so they reflect the values of the organizations.

“Finally we call on our countrymen and women to evaluate political players as well as these media and communications platforms on these same terms, and use their votes and clicks to promote truth and civility in the coming elections,” the groups added.

Legal remedy

Instead of protesting in the streets, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Monday advised party-list groups who believe they were unjustly removed from the list to use legal remedies available to them.

“There are legal remedies for this. Rallying in the streets is probably not a legal remedy. I am sure they have counsels and they can pursue these remedies. They should if they feel aggrieved. If they feel that we have shortcomings, then they should file the necessary pleadings,” Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said.

He gave this advise after some party-list groups such as Nurse United party-list (NU) and the Gentlemen United Associate of our Race Dauntless Ingenuous Advocator of the Nation and Society (Guardians Inc.) party-list demonstrated outside the Comelec’s main office in Intramuros, Manila.

The NU and Guardians were two of the 107 party-lists whose motions for reconsideration of the petitions for registration were denied by the poll body.

The spokesman mentioned that one possible legal remedy for these party-list groups is to secure a status quo ante order (SQA).

And even if these groups would make public claims that they are qualified as party-lists, this would not be enough reason to guarantee that they could participate in the May 9 polls.

“Just because they say so, it doesn’t mean it is so, because the decision of the (Comelec) Division was based on the documents presented before it,” the Comelec official added.

The Comelec has allowed 165 party-list groups to participate in the raffle to determine the order of listing on the official ballots.

The party lists of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration deputy administrator Mocha Uson and former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority spokesperson Celine Pialago are among the 165 groups allowed by Comelec to participate in the Dec. 10 raffle.

On Dec. 1, the Comelec issued an 18-page Resolution No. 10735 on the order of party-list groups as printed on ballot for the May 9 elections.

The Comelec identified 152 registered party-list groups, and 13 with pending incidents, that are all eligible to take part in the raffle at 10 a.m. on Dec. 10.

Both the Mother for Change (MOCHA) party-list that has Uson as its first nominee, along with beauty queen Michele Gumabao; and the Malasakit Movement Partylist (Malasakit Movement) where Pialago is seeking a congressional seat, are both listed in the Comelec's 13 party-list groups with pending incidents.

Among the 152 registered party-list groups are the I-Patriotic Coalition of Marginalized Nationals Inc. (1-Pacman); and the Advocates for Retail & Fashion, Textile & Tradition, Events, Entertainment & Creative Sector (ARTE) that has Binibining Pilipinas Universe 2011 Shamcey Supsup-Lee as its first nominee.

Meanwhile, the poll body also listed 107 party-list groups whose petitions for registration have been denied.

“The motions for reconsideration of the petitions for registration of the following party-list groups, organizations, and coalitions have been denied; hence they shall not be allowed to participate in the raffle,” the Comelec said.

This includes the Dunong at Ulirang Tao Edukadong Rebolusyong may Talas sa Ekonomiya ng Bayan sa Gawain at Adhikaing Nasyonalismo Party-list (DUTERTE KBGAN); Duterte Atin To Inc (Duterte Atin To); the LGBTQ + Organization (LGBTQ PLUS), and the National Organization for Responsive Advocacies for the Arts (NORAA) which has veteran actress Nora Aunor as its first nominee.

The Comelec earlier said that it maintains the authority to exclude any party-list groups, organizations, or coalitions subject to the pending incidents.

“Participation in the raffle is without prejudice to the resolution of the pending incidents and the exclusion on the official ballot, if applicable,” said the poll body.

The Comelec said a final listing of the party-list groups, organizations, and coalitions in the order of the result of the raffle shall be published and posted at the poll body's website within 15 days after the conduct of the raffle. – **With Evelyn Macairan**

Happy Birthday to the following MAP Members who are celebrating their birthdays within December 1 to 31, 2021

December 1

1. Mr. WINSTON “Winnie” A. CHAN
2. Mr. VENJOSEF “Ven” M. SIO, President, Sanitary Care Products Asia, Inc. (SCPA)

December 2

3. Atty. ENGELBERT “Jojo” C. CARONAN JR., President and CEO, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
4. Dr. MELITON “Chito” B. SALAZAR JR., President, PHINMA Education Network

December 3

5. Mr. NOEL E. BONGAT, President & CEO, Corinthians Integrated Security, Inc.
6. Mr. RONALD FRANCIS "Ron" M. DOMPOR, CEO, Fast Distribution Corporation
7. Ms. EMMA IMPERIAL, President and CEO, Imperial Homes Corporation

December 4

8. Ms. PAMELA "Pam" M. DONATO, Vice President for HR-PHANZ, Sitel Philippines Corporation
9. Mr. BENJAMIN "Ben" V. RAMOS, President and CEO, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Corporation

December 5

10. Ms. MARIA CORAZON "Corrie" D. PURISIMA, Treasurer and Head of Global Markets, HSBC Philippines

December 6

11. Mr. EDMUNDO "Ed" S. ISIDRO, President, EI Operations Management Group, Inc.
12. Mr. ROBERT "Bob" C. MEILY LEHMANN, President and CEO, Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation
13. Ms. MARIA AZALEA "Lea" S. PACIS, Marketing Communications Director, Sanitary Care Products Asia, Inc. (SCPA)
14. Mr. DANIEL RODRIGO "Danny" D. REYES, VP for Business Development, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P)
15. Mr. ANTHONY JOSE "Anthony" M. TAMAYO, President, University of Perpetual Help System DALTA

December 7

16. Mr. ERIC NG MENDOZA, President and CEO, Mastercraft Philippines, Inc.

December 8

17. Mr. JOEY A. BERMUDEZ, Chair, Maybridge Finance and Leasing, Inc.
18. Mr. LAWRENCE "Law" Y. FERRER, President and CEO, CIS Bayad Center, Inc.
19. Atty. FELIPE "Henry" L. GOZON, Chair and CEO, GMA Network, Inc.

December 9

20. Mr. TOMAS "Tim" S. CHUIDIAN, SVP and Head of BPI Private Banking, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)
21. Mr. RICHARD ANTONIO "Richard" MORAN TAMAYO, President, University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Medical Center
22. Atty. EDGAR S. TORDESILLAS, Corporate Counsel, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc.

December 10

23. Ms. NINA DATU AGUAS, Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees, InLife
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December 11

26. Cong. JANETTE LORETO GARIN, Representative, 1st District of Iloilo, House of Representatives
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28. Mr. RICHARD S. LIM, President, Sun Life Grepa Financial, Inc.
29. Mr. ALEXANDER "Alex" S. NARCISO, President, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc.

December 12

30. Mr. HERBERT "Herby" M. CONSUNJI, Chief Finance Officer, DMCI Holdings, Inc.
31. Dr. ARTURO "Art" S. DE LA PEÑA, President and CEO, St. Luke's Medical Center
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35. Ms. CHRISTINA "Tina" CHUA TAN, President, Suy Sing Commercial Corporation
36. Mr. CESAR E.A. VIRATA, Corporate Vice Chair, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)

December 13

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38. Sen. MANUEL "*Manny*" B. VILLAR JR., Chair, Vista Land and Lifescapes, Inc.
39. Mr. ROBERT L. YUPANGCO, President, Zoomanity Group

December 14

40. Mr. FRANCISCO "*Frank*" R. BILLANO, CEO, President and General Manager, Interphil Laboratories, Inc.
41. Ms. VICTORIA "*Viksi*" Z. EGAN
42. Dr. JESUS "*Jess*" P. ESTANISLAO, Chair Emeritus, Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)
43. Mr. EUSEBIO "*Bimbo*" M. GARCIA JR., Director, Chemphil Group of Companies
44. Mr. ZDENEK "*Z*" JANKOVSKY, Executive Director and Corporate Treasurer, HC Consumer Finance Philippines, Inc. – Home Credit
45. Dr. PHILIP "*Popoy*" E. JUICO, Chair, Kennedy Energy and Development Corporation

December 15

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48. Mr. WILSON P. NG, President and CEO, Ng Khai Development Corporation
49. Mr. ELFREN ANTONIO "*Boyie*" S. SARTE, President and CEO, Robinsons Bank Corporation

December 16

50. Mr. VINCE LAWRENCE "*Vince*" L. ABEJO, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Filinvest Land, Inc.
51. Mr. JAMES PATRICK "*James*" A. ALBA, CEO, Vendo Corporation
52. Mr. PHILLIP "*Phil*" L. ONG, Chair, Santeh Feeds Corporation
53. Ms. SUSAN GRACE "*Susan*" C. RIVERA, Managing Consultant, Talent, Leadership and Change (TLC)

December 17

54. Mr. CHRISTIAN DANIEL "*Chris*" S. FERRERAS, COO, Manila Uni Capital Group of Companies
55. Mr. RAUL L. IGNACIO, President and General Manager, MPTC / MPT Mobility
56. Atty. MARIA PURISIMA "*Mimi*" Q. SISON, Board Director, Caleb Motor Corporation

December 18

57. Mr. CESAR A. BUENAVENTURA, Senior Partner, Buenaventura, Echaz and Partners
58. Ms. MA. RHODORA "*Ayhee*" L. CAMPOS, Country Head, Infosys BPO Limited

December 19

59. Ms. GINA MARIE "*Gina*" G. ANGANGCO, Deputy CEO, Armscor Global Defense, Inc.
60. Dr. ELFREN S. CRUZ, Chair, Lockton Philippines Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers, Inc.

December 20

61. Engr. LIBERITO "*Levy*" V. ESPIRITU, President, Datem, Inc.
62. Mr. GENARO "*Genju*" VISARRA LAPEZ, Independent Director, China Banking Corporation (Chinabank)
63. Ms. ROWENA LIZA "*Rowena*" D. SAQUIN, VP and General Manager, Fisher Rosemount Systems Inc. - Philippine Branch (FRSI-PB)

December 21

64. Ms. OLIVIA "*Olive*" LIMPE AW, President and CEO, Destileria Limtuaco and Company, Inc.
65. Mr. LEONARDO "*Jun*" D. CUARESMA JR., Managing Partner and COO, P&A Grant Thornton
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67. Ms. TOMASA "*Tammy*" H. LIPANA, Independent Director, SM Investments Corporation
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December 22

71. Atty. JOSE "*Joey*" D. LINA JR., President, Manila Hotel
72. Ms. SYLVIA STOLK, VP - Operations, Maxicare

December 23

73. Mr. VICTORIO “Vic” M. AMANTE
74. Ms. MARIA VICTORIA “Marivic” E. AÑONUEVO, Chair and President, Mejora Ferro Corporation
75. Mr. EMMANUEL “Noel” A. RAPADAS, SVP and CFO, Torre Lorenzo Development Corporation
76. Mr. CESAR N. SARINO

December 24

77. Prof. EMMANUEL “Noel” A. LEYCO, President, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)

December 25

78. Mr. EMMANUEL “Sonny” V. HALILI, CEO and Founder, Intellection Corp. Philippines / Singapore
79. Mr. ERNESTO “Esto” E. LICHAUCO, VP, Resins Incorporated

December 26

80. Mr. ANTOLIN “Len” M. ORETA JR., Director, Intra Strata Assurance Corporation
81. Mr. JOLLY L. TING, Chair, Jollville Holdings Corporation

December 27

82. Mr. JUSTINO JUAN “Justin” R. OCAMPO, Managing Director and Head - Macquarie Capital Philippines, Macquarie Group of Companies (Manila Office)

December 28

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December 29

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89. Mr. REMY “Rem” T. TIGULO, Chair, Chemitron Enterprises, Inc.
90. Ms. IMELDA “Ida” C. TIONGSON, President and CEO, OPAL Portfolio Investments (SPV-AMC) Inc.

December 30

91. Mr. EXEQUIEL “Jun” P. VILLACORTA JR., Chair and President, Financial Advisers and Strategic Thinkers, Inc.

December 31

92. Mr. TIMOTHY PAUL “Tim” ALDROW, Managing Director, MOOG Controls Corporation (Phil. Branch)

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