

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

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(RCAM ES Clusters 5 & 6)

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FR. RAYMOND JOSEPH L. ARRE

February 7, 2022

CEAP BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT ON THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS A CALL TO MORAL COURAGE IN THE 2022 ELECTIONS

The coming National and Local Elections is an opportunity to exercise our Catholic Christian call to social responsibility and love of country. It is happening at a time when our country confronts unprecedented crises of enormous proportions, with millions of our kababayans suffering from the health, economic, and psychological impacts of the pandemic, and the devastation of typhoon Odette. People are afraid of what the uncertain future holds. We are struggling between hope and despair, even toward the leaders we are electing three months from now.

We, the undersigned members of the National Board of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), a national network of private Catholic schools in all regions of our country, believe that our Christian values should be proclaimed vigorously in these elections. These values are at the core of our mission of teaching, research, community engagement, and spiritual formation.

- We value truth, and thus we deplore the massive disinformation that is deceiving our people, especially our youth, in a way that is unparalleled in our history. We vehemently reject the candidates who run under this platform of lies and historical distortion – disseminated in social media by massively-financed trolls particularly the brazen presentation of the Marcos dictatorship and Martial Law as benevolent regimes in our political history. We denounce candidates who exploit our people's poverty through vote buying and intimidation.
- We value justice, and thus we reject candidates who have supported the unjust acts of the current administration, particularly its drug war that has killed thousands, mostly poor and powerless, and the blatant lack of remorse and accountability from the country's leadership. We reject candidates who supported the current administration's policy toward China's aggression inside Philippine territory, its rejection of the Hague ruling, and the lack of protection of Filipino fisherfolk.

^{*}The names and signatories appearing on this statement are CEAP National Board members who have, in their individual capacities, signified their support and concurrence to the statement

- We value democracy, and thus we support candidates who uphold it and the rule of law in our land. We reject candidates who undermine democracy through intolerance of critique and opposition, influence peddling in all three branches of government, perpetuation of a culture of impunity, traditional and patronage politics, and through rampant human rights violations.
- We value integrity, and thus we support candidates with the following qualities: no
 record of corruption, proven competence in participatory governance, transparency and
 accountability in public service, love for the poor and their empowerment, ability to
 sacrifice for the sake of the common good, and readiness to fight for values of truth,
 social justice, and democracy. We support leaders who wield power as social
 responsibility and not self-entitlement, and who can connect to the spiritual in their lives,
 through their conscience, discernment, and faith in God.
- We value our work of educating the youth, and thus we support candidates who will uphold, push, and support legislation to strengthen private education and recognize its complementarity with public education, as critical in nation building.

As educators, we humbly pursue our mission to be beacons of light – to bring the light of truth, justice, democracy, and integrity to our society, now languishing in the darkness of lies, injustice, authoritarianism, and dysfunctional leadership and governance. The May Elections is the opportunity that will break this darkness.

Ultimately, the choice is moral – leading us to take prophetic, non-neutral, even partisan positions on behalf of the Gospel values we stand for, discerned prayerfully and critically, and acted on with courage and faith. We call on our member schools, communities, and partners to unite in this great moral imperative of our times.

AARISSA R. VIRI, RV

CEAP President
Trustee-at-Large
President, University of the
Immaculate Conception – Davao

FR. THADEU ENRIQUE N. BALONGAG

CEAP Vice-President Negros Island Trustee Superintendent, Diocese of Dumaguete

FR. ALBERT N. DELVO

CEAP Treasurer

Trustee-at-Large

Superintendent, Diocese of Novaliches

FR. GILBERT B. SALES, CICM
CEAP Corporate Secretary
CAR Region Trustee
President, St. Louis University

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MR. JOSE ALLAN I. ARELLANO
CEAP Executive Director

FR. MAURICIO T. ULEP, CMF

Trustee-at-Large School Director, Claret School of Quezon City

SR. FELICITAS V. BERNARDO, SPC

Trustee-at-Large
Chair, National Basic Education
Commission
Dean, Graduate School of St. Paul

University Manila

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Trustee-at-Large
Chair, Technical Vocational Education
Commission
Superintendent, Don Bosco Schools

R. NOLAN A. QUE

NCR Trustee

Chair, National Christian Formation Commission School Director, Cluster 5 and 6, RCAM-ES, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila Educational System

FR. GERARD ARISTON P. PEREZ

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President, St. Joseph's College of Baggao

SR. LUZVIMINDA G. MOJICA, FdCC

Region IV Trustee
Superintendent, Canossian Daughters of Charity
Schools

FR. JOSE GUALBERTO I. VILLASIS

Region VI Trustee

Chair, National Higher Education Commission President, Aklan catholic College

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Region IX Trustee
Chair, National Advocacy Commission
President, Ateneo De Zamboanga
University

FR. MAX V CEBALLOS, SSJV

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College, Sulu

BARMIN Trustee President, Notre Dame of Jolo

fr. RAYMOND JOSEPH L. ARRE

Chair, Superintendents Commission Superintendent, Diocese of Cubao FR. ALAIN P. MANALO

Chair, Philippine Catholic Schools Standard (PCSS) Commission Superintendent, Diocese of Imus (Cavite)

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