



COLLEGIAL STATEMENT OF NEGROS DIOCESES FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS

8th of April 2022

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis, which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (Laudato Si #139)

The Negros Dioceses' battle for climate justice is rooted in the inherent demand of our human nature to care for all people, for all living beings, and for the world we live in. This world is undoubtedly confronting an enormous challenge to maintain ecological balance while parrying the onslaught of misplaced development. It is in this context that the dioceses recognize the importance of the upcoming election 2022 in shaping our future engagements in dealing with the climate crisis, knowing full well the power and influence that our elected leaders can contribute in saving our ecological inheritance or, on the contrary, endangering further the integrity of our nation's natural resources.

Hence, we envision a government rooted in faith and oriented towards the values of compassion and respect. A government that is open to listening to the voices of the masses, to the cries of the environment, to the clamour of human rights and the wisdom of science. We aspire for a government that respects and implements due process as it upholds fairness and justice in its implementation of the law. We seek a government that promotes national unity, preserves our inheritance, and rises in defense of our sovereignty.

Therefore, we stand with and demand for leaders who are:

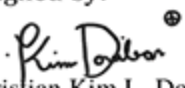
- Committed public servants who are honest and transparent in establishing a government that is pro-poor, pro-people and pro-environment
- Devoid of any hidden agenda that compromises our integrity as a nation and as a Filipino people
- Competent and upholds scientific approaches in addressing national concerns
- Firm but compassionate
- Listening to people and their context, especially, by being in touch with the situation of the poorest of the poor and the environment
- Initiating and supporting legislations that promote inclusivity in gender, disability, and socio-economic status
- Advocating women and youth empowerment
- Opposed to developmental projects that contribute to the climate crisis
- Persons with integrity, respecting the sanctity of life and upholding human rights
- Patriots in their defense of the sovereignty of our nation and the integrity of our natural resources against foreign encroachment

We call upon voters to:

- Be responsible and empower yourselves by becoming well-informed of your choices through legitimate sources of information, i.e., through facts and not fakes
- Be people of integrity by protecting the sanctity of your votes and not relegating it to economic consideration by selling them or allowing them to be bought.
- Be active participants in the electoral process by mobilizing a movement to lobby for integral ecology and eco-ethical development among candidates.
- Be fully aware that true power in this democracy resides on the people
- Claim ownership of the electoral process by exercising your right to vote and choose competent, transparent leaders who prioritize the people and the environment over profit and power, and demand accountability from those who will be selected.

May all the voters and candidates alike take responsibility for the outcome of this electoral process as we discern the total weight that this historic event will place on our country's future. May this momentous event give rise to a government that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people. We pray that the unified voices of the Filipinos for accountable and honest leadership give birth to actual progress. This is our chance to be heard.

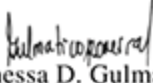
Signed by:


Christian Kim L. Dovibar


Janilyn T. Ferolino



Julie Marie H. Marondo


Ritzie Mae Jean D. Lao


Ronessa D. Gulmatico


Aimee R. Bolonias


John Myron B. Gadiane


Dennis B. Vidal Jr.


Jan Therese N. Destacamento


Czar Proe C. Alegrado


Clarize Roselle S. Ramirez


John Paul P. Insao


Mark Dennis D. Mondia

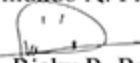

Mary Crystal Kate Mosquera

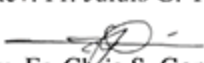

Titus Justin E. Vinluan


Raymundo A. Piedad


Rev. Fr. Julius G. Tormis


Noel Judith Jr.



Rev. Fr. Ricky R. Beboso
SAC San Carlos

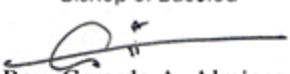

Rev. Fr. Chris S. Gonzales
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Endorsed by:


Most Rev. Patricio A. Buzon, SBD, D.D.
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