



**JOINT STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE EXTENSION OF VOTER REGISTRATION**  
September 10, 2021

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask the Commission on Election (COMELEC) to reconsider its earlier decision to keep the voter registration deadline at September 30, 2021, and instead appeal for its extension by one month to October 31, 2021, when public quarantine conditions shall have been relaxed and people can move about in somewhat greater safety.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding community quarantines of the past 18 months – particularly their concomitant adverse effects on health and livelihood – have posed innumerable, exigent, basic-needs challenges to our people as never before. Pressed by anxiety over immediate existential concerns, many Filipinos have not been afforded the time and mental leeway to register to vote. Even those not immediately threatened existentially are dissuaded from responding to COMELEC’s registration drives owing to the risks of catching the disease, the uncertainty of getting effective treatment, and the need to adjust to changing public quarantine guidelines in what is a rapidly developing situation. The progress in the rate of vaccination, while encouraging, is fairly recent and fails to address the risks for the majority. In particular, it fails to assuage the health concerns of the many millions of younger would-be voters who are not among the priority sectors for vaccination.

Against this reality, we urge the Commission to use the utmost flexibility and human understanding in its decisions to afford all eligible Filipino citizens the chance to exercise their most fundamental and sacred right in a democracy – the right to choose their representatives in government.

We commend the COMELEC for using satellite sites such as school campuses, shopping malls, and other public and private institutions to facilitate voter registration. But with so many eligible Filipinos still unregistered, it is reasonable to increase not only the number of satellite sites but also the number of voter registration days. We note that the cut-off date for voter registration in 2010, 2013, and 2016 was October 31. If an exigency justifies an extension, then certainly this once-in-a-lifetime crisis is one that calls for it.

Again, we appeal to the Commission to reconsider its decision on behalf especially of the Filipino youth who are just coming of age and will be first-time voters in the 2022 elections. Please provide them the opportunity to exercise their civic duty and show their love of country. Citizens should not be asked to choose between risking their health and fulfilling their constitutional duty.

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AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
ANTIPOLO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
ARAULLO UNIVERSITY  
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ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES (ACSCU)  
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY  
ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY  
ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSITY  
BALIUAG UNIVERSITY  
BICOL UNIVERSITY  
CAGAYAN DE ORO COLLEGE  
CAPITOL UNIVERSITY  
CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CEAP)  
CEBU BUSINESS CLUB (CBC)  
CEBU LEADS FOUNDATION (CLF)  
CENTRAL BICOL STATE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE  
CENTRAL LUZON COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
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CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY  
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DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY  
EAST ASIA COMPUTER CENTER, INC  
EMILIO AGUINALDO COLLEGE  
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FEU ALABANG  
FEU CAVITE  
FEU HIGH SCHOOL  
FEU PUBLIC POLICY  
FEU ROOSEVELT  
FILIPINA CEO CIRCLE (FCC)  
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)  
FINEX RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.  
FINTECH ALLIANCE PH  
GUILD OF REAL ESTATE ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS, INC. (GREENPRO)  
HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IPAP)  
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LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES  
MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)  
MANILA TYTANA COLLEGES  
MANUEL S. ENVERGA UNIVERSITY  
MIRIAM COLLEGE

NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION, INC. (NREA)  
NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
NICANOR REYES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
PAMPANGA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES  
(PAPSCU)  
PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PACU)  
PHILIPPINE LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (PLIA)  
PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY  
PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION (PRA)  
PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC NETWORK (PHILWEN)  
PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY  
PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY - JASMS MANILA  
PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY - JASMS QUEZON CITY  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY INSTITUTE OF ASIA (PASIA)  
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RIZAL COLLEGE OF LAGUNA  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE OF LAGUNA  
SHAREHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)  
SILIMAN UNIVERSITY  
SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - PHINMA  
ST. JUDE COLLEGE  
ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY PHILIPPINES  
STI COLLEGE OF SANTA ROSA  
TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY  
TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TMAP)  
TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TECH-VOC SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TVSA)  
THE MANILA TIMES COLLEGE  
TOMAS CLAUDIO COLLEGES  
UNION COLLEGE OF LAGUNA  
UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO  
UNIVERSITY OF BATANGAS  
UNIVERSITY OF CEBU  
UNIVERSITY OF ILOILO  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTEASTERN PHILIPPINES  
UNIVERSITY OF PANGASINAN  
UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA  
UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM JONELTA  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN MINDANAO  
UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST  
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES  
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY - PHILIPPINES  
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XAVIER UNIVERSITY - ATENEO DE CAGAYAN