



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI38
A.Y. 2021-2022

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : VOTER EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION
FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
DATE : 19 FEBRUARY 2022

The University underscores the importance of **Voter Education and Participation** in order to prepare the Thomasian community for the **2022 National and Local Elections**. The engagement of the University to such endeavors includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Collaboration with Key Media Partners

1. ABS-CBN

- Through the Office of Public Affairs, the University partners with ABS-CBN for **#HALALAN2022: Andito Kami Para Sa 'Yo, a voters' registration and education campaign**, which emphasizes the role of the youth in the 2022 elections.
- Through the Journalism Program under the Department of Communication and Media Studies of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, the students as *Halalan Patrollers* will engage in **workshops on election reporting, fact checking, and citizenship journalism**.

2. CNN Philippines

- The University will host the **Vice-Presidential and Presidential Debates** on February 26 and 27, 2022 (Saturday and Sunday) respectively at the UST Quadricentennial Pavilion Arena.
- 100 students will participate as **virtual audience** for each debate and will have the opportunity to raise important questions to the candidates.

3. GMA-7

- Through the Office of Public Affairs, the University partners with GMA-7 for *Eleksyon 2022* and engages in an **election-related community feedback program** titled "*YouScoop*".
- Students and Academic staff may serve as **panelists and interviewees** in GMA-7's election-related programs and specials.



B. Partnerships with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

- The operations of the **PPCRV Command Center** will be held at the UST Quadracentennial Pavilion in order to ensure health and safety protocols during the pandemic.
- The University is to house the **transparency server**, which distributes the copy of election results to political parties, the PPCRV, the *Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas* (KBP) and the media, reflecting the election results received by the COMELEC's central server.

C. Promotion of the Pastoral Guidance of the Church

- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is soon to release a **Pastoral Statement on Elections 2022**, which shall be highlighted in a separate memo.
- CBCP is also asking everyone to **collectively pray** for a peaceful, credible, and transparent elections (*See attachment: Prayer for the 2022 National and Local Elections*).

D. Collaboration with Other Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Advocacy Groups

- With a collective social media reach of around 5-6 million people, the HEIs (i.e., UST, UP, DLSU, AdMU, AdU, PHINMA, JRU, NTC, etc.), and advocacy groups collaborate for **voter education against disinformation** through the sharing of social media resources.

E. Students' Voter Education Initiatives

- The UST Central Student Council, local student councils, University and College-based student organizations, and the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office concertedly organized **voter education programs** such as *Thomasian Voter Education Program*, *Youth Decides*, and *Boto Pilipino*, in coordination with experts, advocates, and members of sectoral groups, to educate and empower the Thomasian community in making informed decisions in choosing the next leaders of the country.

F. Provision for Resources on Voter Education

- Through the UST Communications Bureau, **Voter Education Resources** (i.e., pubmats, videos, and documentaries) will be made available in the University's website and social media accounts.

Considering that voting is not just a right to be protected, but also a duty to be fulfilled, the sanctity of our votes rely on the profound discernment of our choices through fervent prayer, careful study, involvement and vigilance. May we proactively engage in the promotion of peaceful and credible elections. Thank you.


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P., EHL
Secretary-General