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POLICY BRIEF



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Kusog Mindanaw 2022 Elections Agenda

Kusog Mindanaw is a viable and vibrant platform for dialogue among thinkers, doers and activists coming from different sectors. It has been a well-known and recognized institution for many years and an active partner of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for its programs in the Philippines. Kusog Mindanaw contributes to Mindanao peace and development by providing opportunities for the voice of Mindanawons especially those out of the corridors of power to be heard. As a platform, Kusog Mindanaw has been consistent and persistent in bringing to the national consciousness the vision and the call for political, economic, and social reforms of the Mindanawons. It allows all voices, both discordant and unified, to be expressed and be heard. It weaves these voices through a consensus building process into a clear multi-sectoral agenda for Mindanao. Kusog Mindanaw is helping shape Mindanao's future by and for Mindanawons. The organization's values are shaped by its pillars and its multi-sectoral leaders. These values, mainly multi-culturalism, democracy and people's empowerment and subsidiarity among others, will continue to influence public policies in the national government and in the region and this will greatly drive Mindanao's future.

The draft election agenda for Mindanao presents an acronym, **HEALING FOR MInDAnAO**. This stands for the 16 themes reflecting the challenges and specific agenda items. These themes are: **Health and Resilience to disasters; Environment and Climate Emergency; Agriculture and Aquaculture productivity; Livelihood to address poverty; Indigenous Peoples; Normalization and political tracks to sustain peace in the**



Materialized by the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and the cooperating partners: Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), Balay Mindanaw, Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE) and Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), the 2021 Conference was the very first virtual conference held by Kusog Mindanaw since its establishment in 1995. The goal was to co-create the 2022 elections agenda for Mindanao which will be rallied by Kusog Mindanaw to candidates for inclusion in their platforms of government and shall remain in their priority agenda should they win the elections.



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Bangsamoro; Governance that is transparent, accountable, responsive, and participatory; Federalism; Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic; Resources for Mindanao peace and development; Mindanao Human Resource Development; Investments and Infrastructure; Devolution; Anti-dynasty and freedom of information laws; Armed Conflicts in Mindanao, and; Overcoming division through intercultural and intergenerational solidarity.

The draft agenda was co-created by a multi-sector representation composed by the academe, civil society organizations, peoples’ organizations, non-government organizations, media, international organizations, the business chamber, cooperatives, the government sector, primarily the military, and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA).

The Mindanao Agenda was strengthened by the messages of solidarity from esteemed Mindanawon politicians who had consistently shown support for the development cause of Mindanao.

The following matrix summarizes the five-day conference. It presents the 2022 Election Agenda, coined as “HEALING FOR MINDANAO.

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted ¹ , and Specific Agenda Items	
H	HEALTH AND RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS	
	N	1.1 Initiate a program to strengthen the health system in Mindanao by building and improving hospitals, securing facilities and medicines, hiring more health workers and providing fair and just wages, and establishing or reinforcing support systems. Commit to allocate funds in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to improve public health infrastructure and facilities and aggressively expand health services to the community. Bolster appropriate health infrastructure and facilities in island municipalities.
	L	1.2 Allocate funds and implement initiatives to enhance the primary health care system.
	L	1.3 Improve preparedness of communities for disasters by continuing infrastructure initiatives. Implement easements in waterways and drainage/flood mitigation, especially those affecting informal settlers. Initiate the formulation of climate crisis-responsive land use plans and shelter plans.
	N & L	1.4 Incorporate preparedness for future pandemics in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Create emergency management teams that ready to be activated in health emergencies.

¹ N refers to national level aspirants (President, Vice-President, and Senate); B refers to the BARMM; L refers to local political aspirants (Governor/Mayor, Vice-Governor/Vice-Mayor, Sanggunian, and District Representatives to the House of Representatives)

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted ¹ , and Specific Agenda Items	
E	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY	
	N & L	2.1 Give more teeth to the implementation of environmental laws and protective measures
	L	2.2 Ensure that LGUs take the lead and involve stakeholders in identifying, delineating, and protecting watershed areas to secure stable supply of water. Generate more effective ways and support for forest cover protection and regeneration.
	N & L	2.3 Revisit and enhance policies, particularly the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, to strengthen execution. Ensure an integrated approach to solid waste management in LGU planning and give premium to segregation and recycling measures and facilities. Empower the barangays in terms of capacity and resources to better practice ecological solid waste management.
	L	2.4 Establish a system of inter-governmental cooperation and assignment of primary responsibility in areas where environmental jurisdiction is weak—i.e., unpopulated areas and ecosystem common/shared boundaries.
	N & L	2.5 Strictly implement the Mining Law. Promote responsible mining while imposing penalties and sanctions on irresponsible miners. Strictly enforce mining safety nets of to mitigate both environment and social impacts. Discourage open-pit mining which greatly negatively impacts the environment.
	N	2.6 Enact climate-responsive legislation and create an enabling environment for its implementation to address the climate emergency.
A	AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTIVITY	
	N & L	3.1 Pass the National Land Use Act. Meantime, consistently execute current land use policies and plans. Properly validate whether land is still productive for agriculture before allowing conversion into subdivisions and other development use.
	N & L	3.2 Re-prioritize the distribution of land to farmers. Address conflicting land claims and land titling.
	N & L	3.3 Decentralize food security programs towards effective implementation and wider reach. Look at the food system holistically in terms of land utilization, food production and distribution, among others. Identify and address bottlenecks in the food system.
	N & L	3.4 Strengthen the agriculture sector through technical and financial support for farmers that enhance and sustain productivity. Integrate value chain development analysis in agriculture extension service delivery. Buttress the delivery of agriculture post-harvest facilities. Introduce effective and workable internal lending for communities as sources of farm inputs. Promote an enterprise approach to agriculture and aquaculture initiatives for small producers.
	N & L	3.5 Review and formulate policies on use of natural resources in commercial fisheries.
	N & L	3.6 Recognize and strengthen the value of rural women and their contributions to agriculture and economic development by providing social infrastructure projects for women and capability building programs and financial assistance to women projects and activities in rural communities.

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted ¹ , and Specific Agenda Items	
	N & L	3.7 Institutionalize the formulation of local government's African Swine Fever emergency preparedness plans; sustain information, education, and communication activities; and operationalization of monitoring and reporting mechanism from farm and household levels for early detection and timely response.
	N & L	3.8 Intensify the implementation of biosafety and biosecurity protocols in farms and inter-regional border quarantine points; and establishment of first-border inspection facilities in all airports and seaports for on-site control inspections for all incoming and outgoing meat products, animals, plants, farm and fishery products.
	N & L	3.9 Ensure that Mindanao regions will have their equitable shares from alternative sources of livelihood assistance for all ASF-affected swine growers [currently in 12 provinces in Mindanao] and all other technical support under the national government's Integrated National Program Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE).
L	LIVELIHOOD TO ADDRESS POVERTY	
	N & L	4.1 Create dedicated livelihood programs to reduce poverty. Provide culturally appropriate livelihood packages for IP communities, farmers and fisherfolks and not just dole-outs. Ensure that sustainable livelihood and enterprise skills training programs reach far-flung areas. Include intensive capacity building that will prepare them to implement and sustain gainful economic activities. Institute economic empowerment circles for women.
	N & L	4.2 Generate more local investments that provide decent jobs. Expand technical assistance to micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) to leverage online platforms for more reach.
I	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	
	N	5.1 Generate understanding of and support for the indigenous peoples (IP) rights and aspirations, particularly the delineation of ancestral domains, through education and communication initiatives and databases.
	L	5.2 Include IP communities as priorities in DRRM and climate emergency initiatives.
	N & L	5.3 Localize the DENR-NCIP JAO 2008-01; establish municipal inter-agency working group to discuss and come up with options to resolve land issues.
	N & B	5.4 Stand for the immediate passage of an IP Code in the BARMM. Concretely resolve issues related to IPs in the BARMM through the Inter-Governmental Relations Body (IGRB). Establish an inter-agency mechanism at the regional level (i.e., the MPOS, MAFAR, MENRE, and MIPA, among others) to discuss land-related concerns and outline options for their resolution.
	L	5.5 Ensure integration of ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans (ADSDPP) in comprehensive development plans
N	ORMALIZATION AND POLITICAL TRACKS TO SUSTAIN PEACE IN THE BANGSAMORO	
	N & B	6.1 Support a fast-tracked approach of the normalization process and set measures to manage different non-state armed groups. Ensure the implementation of the security, socio-economic development, and transitional justice components.
	B	6.2 Review and update 1 st the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) to ensure its implementation and the accomplishment of targets assuming the transition is extended.

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted ¹ , and Specific Agenda Items	
G	GOVERNANCE THAT IS TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND PARTICIPATORY	
	N & L	7.1 Champion the consistent implementation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 3019). Review, revamp, and revitalize mechanisms at the LGU level that ensure transparency and accountability.
	L	7.2 Strengthen social accountability mechanisms so that civil society organizations are also able to properly monitor the implementation of programs/projects.
	N	7.3 Revisit the critical hotspot-election areas in Mindanao. Support appropriate measures so that they are not used to subvert the people's will and uphold the political interests of a few.
F	FEDERALISM	
	N & L	8.1 Articulate a defined and informed stand on federalism based on existing studies and recommendations from conferences, commissions, and other related undertakings.
	N & L	8.2 Make federalism the country's next top political agenda. Intensify information dissemination and public education about federalism. Conduct a series of dialogues with citizens and involve marginalized sectors and groups. Clearly articulate the points of convergence and acknowledge points of divergence to arrive at a unified model of federalism that is relevant to the Philippine contexts, considerations, challenges, and aspirations.
O	OVERCOMING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	
	N	9.1 Conduct a comprehensive review of pandemic-related policies and messaging strategies on the part of the health and interior and local government departments that affect the public and business establishments. Harness cultural and traditional practices that strengthen adaptability and resilience and are not in conflict with health protocols.
	L	9.2 Reinforce pandemic response capacities at the barangay level. Construct or refurbish barangay health centers and isolation facilities.
R	RESOURCES FOR MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT	
	N & L	10.1 Work to institutionalize bottom-up and community-driven planning and budgeting approaches and processes to inform barangay, city/municipality, province, and regional priorities.
	N	10.2 Enhance the interface of regional budgeting and sectoral budgeting so that amounts endorsed by Regional Development Councils (RDC) are not sacrificed because of budget ceilings and other national priorities. Require a breakdown of lump-sum budgets of central offices of government agencies to better track allocation—and spending—of nation-wide initiatives.
	N	10.3 In light of the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia petitions and EO 138, see to it that the existing imbalances within Mindanao are not reinforced.

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M	INDANAO HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
	N	11.1 Prioritize education with adequate funding for children and youth, not only privileging academically proficient children. Promote adult literacy through accessible alternative learning systems, such as the Magbassa Kita. Establish incentives for educational institutions to serve indigenous and geographically isolated rural communities in Mindanao.
	N & B	11.2 Pursue the implementation of RA 6850 or the Rasul Law, which grants civil service eligibility to all government employees holding career civil service positions appointed under provisional or temporary status who have rendered at least seven (7) years of efficient service that will qualify them for permanent appointment to their present positions. Look into its implementation in the Department of Education and the BARMM context.
	B & L	11.3 Improve the science, technology, and research sector in Mindanao. Map out scientists and engineers and develop support programs. Make agriculture-related careers attractive and compelling options for the youth.
IN	VESTMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
	N	12.1 Adopt a mineral value-added policy which pushes economic activities and provides infrastructure that add value and create jobs which would favorably impact on the lives and livelihood of the people of Mindanao.
	N	12.2 Commit to the revitalization of electric cooperatives by improving operations, fiscal performance, and efficiencies.
	N	12.3 Invest in more sustainable sources of energy and move towards a green economy.
	N & L	12.4 Develop alternative safe sources of water for island communities and land-locked and rural areas. Improve access to power/electricity to establish or make more effective distribution systems for potable water.
	N	12.5 Encourage the strengthening of connectivity among existing telecommunication facilities. Provide incentives or open access to other telecom service providers to expand services to communities. Improve information communication technology infrastructure in island provinces such as Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.
	N & L	12.6 Enhance accessibility through integrated local and regional transport systems to generate more economic opportunities. Revive local ports and in the island provinces.
	N & L	12.7 Strengthen and expand Mindanao's Halal industry. Develop the necessary financial, infrastructure, and technological ecosystem that would allow it to flourish and grow.
	N & L	12.8 With the revival of BIMP EAGA, find ways of improving the barter trade and generating jobs and income for communities in the Sulu Sea.

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted¹, and Specific Agenda Items	
D	EVOLUTION	
	L	13.1 Prioritize marginalized groups in providing devolved services and facilities as part of the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia petitions and EO 138 s. 2021.
	L	13.2 Constitute/Reconstitute the Local Development Councils (LDC) and other local special bodies (LSB). Respect their mandates. Harness their contributions to local governance, peace, and development.
An	TI-DYNASTY AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAWS	
	N	14.1 Champion the passage of an anti-dynasty law as a structural solution. Guarantee anti-dynasty provisions in federalism legislation. Push for anti-dynasty provisions in the BARMM Electoral Code and Local Government Code
	N	14.2 Legislate a freedom of information (FOI) law as a pre-requisite of federalism
A	RMED CONFLICTS IN MINDANAO	
	N & B	15.1 Apply a holistic approach to security, peace, and order that is not limited by ideology and are not palliative solutions. Provide socioeconomic assistance to conflict-affected communities as part of the holistic approach.
	N & L	15.2 Improve the existing immersion programs of the security sector in the barangays to address armed conflicts.
	B & L	15.3 Disband private armed groups. Review and revitalize policies on gun-acquisition, control, and management and ensure their consistent implementation. Register firearms ownership and make owners more accountable.
	N & L	15.4 Continue the implementation of EO 70 (End Local Communist Armed Conflict) in a manner that addresses fundamental causes of conflict. Resume the peace talks between the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF at the national level.
	N & L	15.5 Promote and support the National Action Plan on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism.
	B & L	15.6 Review and assess the effectiveness of the sustainability of solutions on rido using evidence. Develop and implement a comprehensive framework with the involvement of stakeholders, including women.
	B & L	15.7 Pass the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Law in the BARMM. Ensure durable and sustainable solutions for displacement.
	N & B	15.8 Fully implement the National and Regional Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP and RAP WPS)

Theme	Level of Political Aspirants Targeted ¹ , and Specific Agenda Items	
O	VERCOMING DIVISIONS THROUGH INTERCULTURAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY	
	N, B, & L	16.1 Continue culture of peace and peace education efforts. Integrate these in the mainstream educational system and communities. Secure the support and involvement of media.
	N, B, & L	16.2 Improve the capacities and space to allow free flow and exchange of information, feedback, and dialogue among communities.
	N, B, & L	16.3 Address the sense of injustice and stigmatization and the need for reintegration/rehabilitation for both former militants and their families. Pay special attention to the impacts of violent extremism/events on women and children.
	N, B, & L	16.4 Decisively address emerging signs of intolerance and violence against minorities such as IPs and the LGBTQIA community

Shaping Public Policy for Peace and Good Governance

Established in 2001, the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) seeks to provide research, training and technical assistance to promote meaningful autonomy, governance and security in the southern Philippines. IAG is an institutional partner of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in the Philippines.

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