



## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES ON THE 5-POINT HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOR PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ELECTIONS 2016



### 1. VICE-PRESIDENT JEJOMAR BINAY

- Pledges his strong commitment towards ensuring and promoting universal human rights for all
- Vows to render accountable any party who would violate constitutional and international human rights commitments and obligations
- Would ensure that the 5-Point Agenda given by AI would be given proper consideration and adoption by his administration to guarantee that policies adopted are in accordance with his platform of economic growth across all sectors
- Recognizes the need for the Philippines to join other nations in signing and ratifying impending treaties including:
  - o Optional Protocol of the International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
  - o International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances
  - o International Arms Trade Treaty
- Believes that human rights week should become a true time for celebration for ending the remaining instances of human rights abuses committed in the country

### 2. SENATOR GRACE POE

- Reflect, re-assess, and resolve the root causes of the failure to realize human rights and human security
- Establish an open, accountable, and competent governance
- Integrate human rights in governance where the government will perform due diligence in constructing an preparing a bureaucratic infrastructure that will warrant the free exercise and enjoyment of human rights by all, with special attention to the most vulnerable sectors
- Capacitate government personnel to comprehend and operationalize human rights as part of my development agenda, embedding human rights norms, standards, and principles
- Pending the passage of the Freedom of Information Law, pass an executive order to implement a disclosure policy for pertinent government transactions immediately, to cover executive and administrative agencies
- Reduce or automate as many licensing and application requirements as is possible, so as to lessen room for human intervention and rent-seeking activities
- Simplify the tax regime
- Punish both the briber and the bribed. Make bribery a universal crime by establishing a law that specifically punishes bribery in the private sector.
- Ensure that the appointment of justices and regulators is not politicized or hijacked by special interest groups
- Promote the growth of labor-intensive industries so as to create more jobs



- Encourage investment in sectors that employ people outside of the cities, such as Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism and MSMEs, while preserving the environment
- Continue and expand the CCT coverage, to ensure that children from poor families are kept in school and given a better chance in life.
- Enact the *First 1,000 Days* bill, a nationwide program under the Department of Health (DOH) that aims to provide nutrition and alleviate hunger for pregnant women and the child they are carrying from the first day of life to two (2) years old.
- Rehabilitate provincial and district hospitals in the 30 poorest provinces in the first 100 days of office.
- Raise salaries to attract more doctors, nurses and midwives to work in the public health sector, particularly in the countryside.
- Enact the *Sustansya para sa Batang Pilipino* bill, a standard lunch program for public elementary and high school students.
- Use indirect means such as lowering taxes and controlling inflation to provide a living wage for workers;
- Work to lower electricity prices, ensure sufficient power to fuel a growing economy and develop renewable energy;
- Complete the agrarian reform program for the small farmers, and ensure access by subsistence fisherfolks to municipal waters towards ensuring adequate standard of living for them
- Strengthen the five (5) pillars of justice – Community, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts and Corrections
- Put in place the laws that truly deter crime, including harsher penalties for repeat offenders and drug dealers
- Motivate the PNP and rebuild trust in its image, by ruthlessly weeding out bad cops from the force
- Ensure that the courts are equipped to render speedy justice for crime victims
- Provide the military with the attention and resources they need to take pride in their jobs as guardians of the republic
- Increase access to justice to ensure fair and prompt resolution of purported human rights violations – civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights;
- Review Administrative Order 35, series of 2012, and strengthen investigation and prosecution of grave human rights violations and undertake policy reforms to address impunity
- Adopt a human rights legislative and policy agenda, to include THE Anti-Discrimination Bill, amendments to the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities to conform to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, among others;
- Engender governance and ensure gender equality;
- Fully enforce the "best interest of the child", enhance the juvenile welfare system, protect children in extraordinary circumstances and pursue legislation protecting the foundlings and abandoned children;
- Protect OFWs before their departure and while they are abroad through provision of appropriate information, and accessible and speedy legal and social services;
- Eliminate all forms of discrimination based on gender through the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act and an Anti-Hate Crime Law. Require all government agencies, bureaus, offices, schools, and



- LGUs to provide extensive Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) and SOGIE (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression) seminars to their officials and personnel.
- Explore legal protection for common-law or same-sex partners and support policy reform and complementary initiatives to remove discriminatory aspects in laws and policies related to marriage and family.
  - Support peer-led programs and community-led awareness programs on HIV/AIDS testing and establish accessible and affordable testing centres and treatment hubs.
  - Protect the *Lumads* and align development goals to ensure full respect of their human rights;
  - Pursue peace with all rebel groups and honor all prior commitments;
  - Ensure full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and GPH-NDFP Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).
  - Consult with the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and other committees set up by the parties in order to manage this issue.
  - Prioritize the delivery of basic services.
  - Remove the military from conflict areas and enable its shift to territorial defense while modernizing and strengthening the police force for effective law enforcement and maintenance of peace and order in its areas of operation.

### 3. FORMER SECRETARY MAR ROXAS

- Respect and protection of the inalienable rights every human being has, regardless of age, sex, religion, class, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, at every stage and in every condition.
- Ensure that they enjoy freedom from hunger, freedom from fear, and freedom to dream through the prioritization of the most impactful policy areas as well as clear programs and initiatives that have immediate, near-term, and long-term benefits for Filipino families.
- Fully enforce measures and secure the passage of necessary legislations to advance and guarantee the protection of human rights.
  - o Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act
  - o Expanded Anti-TIP Act
  - o Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act
  - o Reproductive Health Law
  - o A comprehensive anti-discrimination law
  - o Positive Discipline and Anti-Corporal Punishment bill to protect the rights of our children against violence.
- Ensure that all pillars of the justice system performs and delivers effectively
  - o strengthen the institutions and organizations that provide care and assistance to the victims or offended party
  - o modernize law enforcement agencies and improving prosecution services
  - o continue reforms in the justice sector, for instance the institutionalized Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) as well as programs like the Justice Zone and *Hustisyeah*
  - o enhance correctional and rehabilitation facilities and programs. In line with justice delivery, we will pursue the immediate resolution of justice-related cases such as the 2015



Mamasapano incident, the 2010 Maguindanao massacre, lumad killings, and extra-judicial killings.

- Further raise people's participation and involvement in reporting HR violations and in monitoring the implementation of HR measures and programs like the comprehensive human rights education through enhancing the capacity of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers
- Strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and government agencies that directly affect vulnerable sectors—women, youth, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), indigenous peoples (IPs), senior citizens, LGBT, workers, farmers and fisher folks. This is crucial in sustaining a rights-based approach to governance to ensure inclusive development.

#### **4. SENATOR MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO**

- Launch a swift review of all programs and projects of government—including those in DOJ and CHR
  - o Inter-Agency Committee on Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Other Grave Violations of the Right to Life
  - o Seek to increase the involvement of CHR in the committee
- To certify as urgent the passage of the Freedom of Information Law
  - o Issue an EO that will implement the principle of freedom of information in the bureaucracy
- Improve the implementation of the Anti-Torture Law and the Anti-Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance Act
- Review the Witness Protection Program and complement it with the Whistleblowers' Protection Act
- Review state sponsorship of militias and paramilitary groups
- To certify as urgent the passage of the Anti-Political Recommendations Law to end the “padrino system” in the AFP and PNP
- Push for the passage of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Act
- Human rights will be mainstreamed in all government programs and projects
- Resolving the controversial cases of the Maguindanao massacre, Mamasapano clash
- Encourage a no-postponement policy among the courts

*\*No response yet from Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as of 14 April 2016*

*\*\*Copies of the statement released by Presidentiables is available upon request*