

iVote Para sa Kinabukasan
Circular 2009-18

To: All Parish Priests

My deepest felicitations and gratitude to all the Parish Priests who sent delegates to the launching of iVote on 29 August 2009, at the Palace of the Rock, St. Peter Parish Church, Commonwealth, Quezon City. I had a great time interacting with our young people, and I commend them for their generosity in responding to the call to help heal our Nation's wounded and broken political-electoral culture. I am very much pleased to see them very committed and driven to get involved and work together, so as to secure a brighter future for themselves and for our Country.

We all know how crucial the role of elections is in strengthening our democracy and in protecting the wellbeing of our people. With this, I enjoin you, let us, as a Diocese, make a concrete effort to ensure that the 2010 Elections will be credible, honest, and peaceful. We have been suffering and struggling for so long because of the kind of politics we have and foster in our Country. Though it has started long ago, our work as pastors and shepherds is not yet done. And it will not be done until corruption is eradicated in the Government. We have to work doubly hard to attain this while its total eradication seems impossible. However, I stay hopeful, very much hopeful – because of our young people.

I am particularly interested in seeing the youths being formed and encouraged to actively participate in the various undertakings related to the shaping of a Faith-inspired and principle-driven elections. Let us do our best to help them guide them that they have venues for taking up their roles as responsible citizens of this Country and as good Disciples of Christ.

To this end, I am hereby designating the ***iVote Para sa Kinabukasan*** initiative of our Public Affairs Commission to be the official and priority Diocesan program on the electoral-political formation of the youth from August 2009 to June 2010.

I, therefore, request all the Parish Priests to facilitate the implementation of the different iVote activities, as follows:

1. The creation of an iVote Parish Team composed of at least three (3) or five (5) youths who are eligible to vote. This team is tasked to man the iVote Desk in your Parish and coordinate with the Diocesan iVote Core Group on different election formation activities and mobilizations.
2. The organization of a survey by the youth in the Parish who are 18 years old and above and are not yet registered to vote. Let us make them

participate in our REGISTRATION DRIVE. Our goal is to facilitate the registration of at least 600 youths.

3. The installation of the iVote *Pagtataya Tarpaulin* in a strategic location in your Parish church.
4. The promotion and recitation of the PRAYER FOR THE ELECTIONS in all Youth Masses.
5. The Authorization of your Parish's iVote Formation Team and iVote Diocesan Core Group to organize and implement election-related trainings, reflection sessions, symposia in your respective Parishes.
6. The giving of support for other iVote activities as indicated in the attached iVote Road Map.

The iVote Diocesan Core Group through its head, Rev. Roland P. Jaluag, will be required to make a monthly report to update me and all the Parish Priests on the progress of our iVote campaign.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 8th day of September in the Year of Our Lord, 2009.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jerome U. Rosalinda
Chancellor