

2022 Maguindanao Plebiscite Observation Report September 17, 2022 (From 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM)

SAFE

In commitment to a Safe, Accountable, Transparent, Inclusive Elections that inspires National public confidence, the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (“LENTE”) is conducting Plebiscite monitoring operations at the Maguindanao Province.

Maguindanaons lined up to cast their ballots for the Plebiscite as early as 7:00 AM, despite COVID-19 still looming over. In the voting centers that we have observed, most of the Plebiscite Committee (“PlebComm”) arrived on time and without delays, prepared the set-up of the polling places, and accomplished the preliminary activities. Based on the reports from the volunteers on the ground, voting influx peaked at 7:30 AM onwards, 30 minutes later than the expected time. Low number of voters were observed waiting for the voting to be opened. Also, with the recently signed Executive Order (EO) No. 3 allowing the voluntary wearing of face masks in outdoor settings, observation reports convey that the majority of voters were not wearing face masks, and only a few of the schools have temperature check at the entrance of the voting center, no installed sanitation stations at the polling places and social distancing of one (1) meter were not properly observed.

LENTE also observed that in Datu Gumbay Elementary School, plastic barriers between voters and the PlebComm are present and installed for health and safety precautions. However, in the majority of voting centers, proper sanitation of shared voting paraphernalia such as pens are not being sanitized.

ACCOUNTABILITY

There are reports of police officers and barangay officials serving as marshals and who assist the voters. Barangay officials and some members of the Local Government Units were also reported preparing food for the voters. This was reported at Kiteb Center Elementary School.



For queries, please contact:
P: (064) 421-6007
LENTE HOTLINES:
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ACCOUNTABILITY

LENTE has also received reports that Armed Forces and other security personnel are being allowed to stay inside the voting center despite the prohibition under the law that any officer or member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) or the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are not allowed to enter inside the voting center unless the PNP personnel is a member of the PlebComm or where there is actual disturbance or disruption of peace and order. When LENTE volunteers asked the voters how they feel whenever they see armed personnel, they mentioned that they feel secure with their presence roving around.

Another issue that led to delays and uncertainty in some voting locations was the lack of the Voters' Assistance Desk. However, under the rules, it was also stated that should there be no accredited Citizens' Arm on the day of the plebiscite, the voters shall follow the usual procedure of finding their precinct number and polling place in the Posted Computerized Voters List (PCVL). Alongside this, the PCVL was not found in one voting center namely Datu Gumbay Piang Elementary School in which the said document is mandated for all elections.

TRANSPARENCY

Some issues also remain the same with the voter's list as reports came in of missing names in. It is advised for voters who are having this issue to keep looking for their names at different polling locations inside the same voting center.

INCLUSIVENESS

Observation results also conveyed that Accessible Polling Places (APP), where members of vulnerable sectors may to allow ease in voting, were not available in the voting centers where LENTE has observed.



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INCLUSIVENESS

For voting centers where APP was not present, senior citizens, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities were prioritized by the PlebComm in the regular polling places, such as in voting centers of Dalican Pilot Elementary School and Kiteb Center Elementary School.

However, there are also reports in which voters experienced problems in finding their polling place due to difficulty in reading the texts.

CALL FOR VOTERS

We would like to remind all voters on the following:

- Wear a face mask.
- Voting is until 3:00PM only.
- If you see any unlawful or suspicious activity, report to the COMELEC, LENTE Observers and other accredited Citizen's Arm.
- If your name is missing, look for your name in other polling places located in the same voting center.
- We are currently monitoring these following voting centers: Talayan National High School, Midtimbang Elementary School, South Bingga, Central Elementary School, (Talayan), Datu Tahir Central Elementary School, Mahad School, Mamasapano National High School (Mamasapano), Kanguan E. Uy Central Elementary School, Datu Pendilillang Piang Elementary School (Datu Saudi), Dalican Pilot Elementary School (Datu Odin Sinusuat), Kiteb Center Elementary School (Midtimbang), Tambunan Central Elementary School, Bagan Elementary School, (Guindulungan), Talitay Central Elementary School (Talitay), Datu Gumbay Elementary School, Kaguan E. Uy Central Elementary School (Datu Piang), Voting center at Barangay at Barangay Liong in Datu Salibo, Dalican Pilot Elementary School (Datu Odin Sinusuat) and Nuro Central Elementary School (Upi).
- Please report observations, incident monitoring reports and other offenses at our LENTE hotlines, 0917 779 3916 (Globe), 0961 158 2330 (Smart), 064-421-6007 (Landline).

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