

## ERNESTO "ERNIE" CORPUZ ABELLA

Name: Ernesto Corpuz Abella

Political Party: Independent

### EDUCATION:

Ateneo de Davao University (BA in pre -medicine)

Siliman University (MA in Divinity)

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

Creative Director for Adformatix (1975-1977)

Founder, Hope of Asia and the Christian charismatic group Jesus Fellowship, Inc.

Board member, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches and the Koinonia Theological Seminary

Columnist for San Pedro Express & SunStar Davao

Professor, Ateneo de Davao

Former Chief Executive Officer, AZ Agri-Products

Former Chief Operating Officer, F&P Agri-Inputs

Owner of One Accord Credit Cooperative and Southpoint School in Davao City

Former Presidential Spokesperson of Duterte (2016-2017)

Undersecretary for Strategic Communications and Research at the Dept of Foreign Affairs (Nov 23, 2017)

## I. ENVIRONMENT

### A. Legislation filed, pushed, or passed (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

### B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Negative, -1 point)

- While praising Gina Lopez's contributions as former DENR secretary, Abella also expressed confidence that Cimatu can implement Duterte's "marching orders" on "keeping a delicate balance between economic development and environmental sustainability". [\[Source\]](#), [\[Source\]](#)

### C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** There are no other easily accessible statements from Abella that can be found calling to protect the environment and stop environmentally-destructive projects and/or consistently echoing campaigns that PMPI stands for.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

## II. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MITIGATION - DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CCAM-DRR)

### A. Bills, Resolutions filed, Court Decisions written (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

### B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Ambivalent, 0.5 point)

- Abella to Robredo: Display more appreciation of the work of our disaster officials, our social workers, and other volunteers, in response to the latter's remarks about slow government disaster response (2017) [\[Source\]](#)
- Ernesto Abella urged the public to "stay calm and yet remain vigilant and alert" as disaster relief officials assessed the damage. [\[Source\]](#)
- On Earth Day, Abella stated that Earth day "is our commitment to the global call to uphold climate justice" [\[Source\]](#)
- Statement from Earth Hour 2017: Abella encouraged others to celebrate Earth Hour 2017 as it serves as "our commitment to fight climate change and our solidarity to the rest of the world in spreading the message that while we pursue economic development programs, we continuously aspire for sustainable, climate change-resilient living." [\[Source\]](#)

### C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)

- N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** While Abella's publicly available sentiments on the CCAM-DRRM issues appear to be positive, these are very general statements that do not hold any depth or weight towards addressing climate change. One of the statements is also deflective of valid criticisms of the government's DRRM response. There are no other easily accessible statements from Abella that can be found of him calling to stop environmentally destructive projects and consistently echoing campaigns that PMPI stands for. For the network, seemingly positive lip service does not equate to genuinely advocating for the environment.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

### III. MINING

**A. Legislation filed, pushed, or passed (Not applicable, 0 point)**

N/A

**B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (No information, -0.5 point)**

N/A

**C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)**

N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** There are no easily accessible personal sentiments from Abella that can be found of him calling to stop mining projects and echoing his position on destructive mining and/or impacts to people . This is telling on how he is concerned with the issue at hand.

PHILIPPINE - MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

### IV. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

**A. Bills, Resolutions filed, Court Decisions written (Not applicable, 0 point)**

N/A

**B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Ambivalent, 0.5 point)**

- Requested Director Adornado to look into the possibility of raising livestock (e.g free-range chicken) in the formulation of the Agroforestry Plan. [\[Source\]](#)

**C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)**

N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** While he advocates for organic products, Abella sentiment and action on agriculture and fisheries is lacking. There are no public statements and positions from Abella that can be found of him echoing calls for the promotion or development of the agricultural sector.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

## V. PEACE

### A. Legislation filed, pushed, or passed (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

### B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Ambivalent, 0.5 point)

- In his speech during the UNACOM Partners Forum, he said “After two devastating world wars, it became clear that political and economic agreements are not enough to build lasting peace. It can only be established “on the basis of humanity’s moral and intellectual solidarity,” He shared the agency’s vision on creating long-lasting peace. [\[Source\]](#)
- As spokesperson, Abella stated that “We recognize that poverty in Mindanao and the sense of hopelessness it brings spawns terrorism. It is for this reason that while we are fighting terrorism, we are also fighting poverty. The president has already approved the comprehensive peace roadmap, which aims to provide peace and development by addressing the issue on Bangsamoro” [\[Source\]](#)
- In response to the Philippines ranking 5th in highest number of terror attacks in 2016, Abella said that the government is doing everything it can to solve the country’s problem in terrorism. “We are confronting it, engaging the situation with the whole system approach.” [\[Source\]](#)
- “The New People’s Army must show their sincerity in continuing the peace process...we must respect the president’s decision,” Abella stated after President Duterte terminated the peace talks. [\[Source\]](#)

### C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)

- N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** While Abella’s publicly available sentiments on peace appear to be positive, these are very general statements that do not hold any depth or weight towards fighting for promoting peace. There are no other easily accessible statements from Abella that can be found of him echoing his position on this important issue and agenda.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

## VI. GOOD GOVERNANCE

### A. Legislation filed, pushed, or passed (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

### B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Negative, -1 point)

- On the ICC investigation: “You know, it would really be deeply disappointing if the court took the word of admitted murderer as the basis for action against the head of state who was democratically elected by a Filipino electorate that wants nothing more than an end to an epidemic that has afflicted millions of our countrymen and women that has been responsible for a crime wave that has been terrorizing many parts of our country for decades,” presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a Palace briefing." [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- Abella stated that the pandemic has added another layer of difficulties and challenges in realizing the SDGs. “While recognizing unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we also recognize that it has created an opportunity for changes that have a long-term impact. This encompasses the use of information and communication technologies, the digital economy, and local government exercising authority in developing a recovery plan,” he said. [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- “A revitalized education for a COVID-19 generation needs to be steered by actors with deeper and better understanding and appreciation of the need to prioritize more insightful education across communities and countries that goes beyond narrow self-interest, but more of humans who reciprocate, empathize, and

cooperate.” from his statement in celebration of the International Day of Education [\[Source\]](#)

- The Philippines need a listening government and listening mechanisms could get institutionalized. He however clarified that the Duterte administration did not fail in listening to its people, and was rather incredible in its job. [\[Source\]](#)

#### PLATFORM FOR 2022 ELECTIONS

- Vows free food and healthcare for the first 1,000 days of children, in support to the next generation of leaders [\[Source\]](#)
- “I’m not interested in popularity on stage but in strengthening our networks and organizing on the ground.” [\[Source\]](#)

#### C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Negative, -1)

- Abella has cited that the most significant work he has done as DFA Undersecretary for Strategic Communications and Research is the presentation of "Pangarap: The Filipino Dream of a Comfortable Life for All," a cultural show “well-received by the diplomatic community.” [\[Source\]](#)
- As OIC of UNACOM, he promoted Philippine Culture and promoting the values of mental health especially in the context of pandemic via his participation in a series of webinars held entitled Creative Talks: Design-led Creative Thinking for Our Everyday Life and on Reshaping Filipino Minds, Dedicating Talents towards enduring peaceful Global Community” [\[Source\]](#) ; [\[Source\]](#)
- He met with Russian ambassadors and media envoys to explore possible cooperation activities in the fields of mass communications, mass media, and combating cybercrime. [\[Source\]](#)
- As part of his job as DFA USec, he met with OFWs in various countries to be able to respond fully to OFWs’ concerns and tackle issues particular to the community. [\[Source\]](#) , [\[Source\]](#) , [\[Source\]](#)

**BASIS FOR RATING:** While Abella’s some publicly available sentiments on governance appear to be positive, these are very general statements that do not hold any depth or weight towards actively promoting good governance, particularly in the sector he is tasked to serve (migrants and OFWs). His statement on the ICC investigation on President Duterte’s case is disappointing and tells of his stand on government accountability and response on victims of HR violations.

On projects and programs under DFA and UNESCO, his avowed greatest achievement is a series of webinars on culture and mental health during pandemic and apart from diplomatic visit to other countries and meet OFWs, there was nothing much report about policies and actions to address issues of our OFWs and migrants.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

## VII. HUMAN RIGHTS

### A. Legislation filed, pushed, or passed (Not applicable, 0 point)

N/A

### B. Position on Issues, Advocacies, Platforms (Negative, -1 point)

- As PRRD's former Presidential Spokesperson, Abella was in full support of the War on Drugs. In a Press Conference in 2016, he claimed that the campaign was "highly successful." [SOURCE]
- Abella on the 2017 EU report of the human rights situation in the Philippines: "The EU's report covers the period of last year's elections and many of its alleged findings are a rehash of criticisms aired by the political party whose candidate lost to the President." [SOURCE]
- On PH as among deadliest countries for environmental activists: Presidential spokesperson Ernie Abella stated that "we do not condone such violence and intimidation" after the Philippines was revealed to be "among the deadliest countries in the world for environmental defenders for four straight years." [Source]

### C. Projects and Activities Organized/supported (Not applicable, 0 point)

- N/A

**BASIS FOR RATING:** Abella's support for the War on Drugs campaign and being defluctive of its criticisms is not consistent with PMPI's framework as the said campaign has violated the rights of tens of thousands individuals. His response that the administration is not condoning violence and intimidation toes the line of government being a presidential spokesperson and is blind as data on HR violations under the current term shows otherwise.

Bills/Resolutions filed/Court decisions and Projects & Programs are rated as Not Applicable as Abella has not held any legislative and executive leadership roles.

**WATCH OUT FOR:**

- As former spokesperson of the Duterte administration, Abella has been an avid supporter, defender, and enabler of the administration despite controversial issues such as the War on Drugs, and being dismissive of criticisms. [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- Connected and served significant positions in various agri-businesses [\[SOURCE\]](#)

**SYNTHESIS:**

Environment: -1

CCAM-DRR: 0.5

Mining: -0.5

SusAg & Fisheries: 0.5

Peace: 0.5

Good Governance: -2

Human Rights: -1

Watch out for: -0.5

**Total Score: -3.5**



	ENVI	CCAM	AMC	SUS AG	PEACE	GG	HR
<b>Bills</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Advocacies</b>	NEGATIVE	AMBIVALENT	NO INFO	AMBIVALENT	AMBIVALENT	NEGATIVE	NEGATIVE
<b>Projects</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEGATIVE	N/A