

Points for discussion:

**EU's principled pragmatism amid
Dutertismo in the Philippines**

Mindanao, protracted conflict and
the logic of no alternative

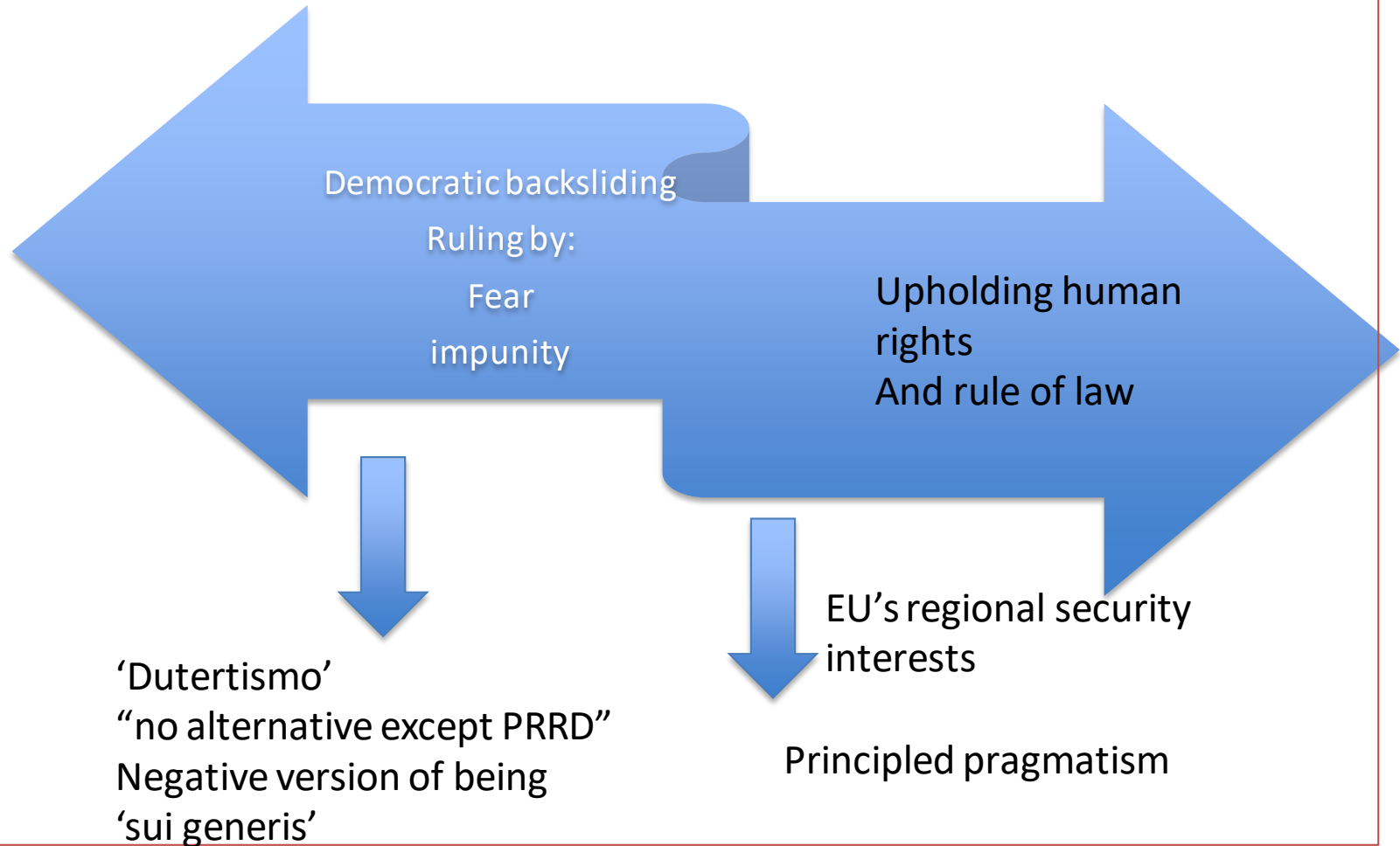
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Some thoughts on the paper

- Technically excellently written, showing author's strong conceptual handles on two countervailing paradigms, EU's principled pragmatism vis-à-vis Duterte's logic of no alternative
- Problematizes these two streams against the backdrop of Mindanao's protracted conflict, and the fast paced democratic backsliding
- Highlights 3 main issues through the lenses of actor-centered constructivism and discursive institutionalism
 - Power-idea nexus
 - State of peacebuilding amid effects of democratic backsliding
 - Socialized approach based on HR and rule of law

CONTEXT:

PROTRACTED CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING IN MINDANAO, CREATION OF THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION



Hegemonic generation of ideas = “coercive” mainstreaming

Upholding the rule of the ruler, rather than the rule of law that applies equally to everyone....

Power
through ideas

**Persuasion using
powerful actors**

If an idea comes from the government of the day, it tends to be easily accepted...

Power over
ideas

**Exclusion of other
actors' ideas**

Voices and agency of the minority group in the Parliament tend to be sidelined

Power in
ideas

**Privileging ideas
over those of others**

Popularity or prevalence of ideas can lead to acceptance even if these run counter to democratic governance

Challenges facing BARMM's politics of transition

- Dealing with problematic concept: 'moral governance'
- Shallow bench of democratic governance capacities and technical skills among members of Parliament and of regional ministries, agencies
- Minefield for development actors, like EU in BARMM:
 - Policies of recruitment and hiring based on trust and confidence vs. competence
 - Mainland vs island dichotomy and consequences
 - Embedded systems and logic of corruption still in place
 - Local government political dynamics still clan-based, rent-seeking and horse trading still prevalent
 - Slow legislation process on priority codes (only 3 out of 7) have been approved so far
 - Transitional Justice legislation to create mechanisms to uphold the rule of law, prevent impunity, stringent security sector reforms to guarantee non-recurrence not yet in place at the national level; clamor for justice for victims of massive and emblematic human rights violations before, during and after Martial Law not addressed
 - New cases of massive atrocities: Zamboanga Siege of 2013 and Marawi War, 2017
 - Growing intolerance for diverse gender identities in several instances of killings of members of LGBTQI+
 - Persistence of violent extremist ideas and behavior in some areas in the region:
 - The SPMS box in Maguindanao
 - Marawi City, Lanao provinces
 - Sulu, esp Patikul

EU's significant inputs

- Support for Bangsamoro Transition (SUBATRA)
- Capacity building for the newly organized Bangsamoro Regional Human Rights Commission
- KAF-supported projects
- AECID projects for the IWG Transitional Justice
- Institution building and governance capacity building through the Westminster Forum for Democracy
- Other smaller projects supported by EU

The pivotal roles of civil society (esp academe)

