

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM OF ACTION (NACPA)

PROJECT TERMINAL REPORT

I. BACKGROUND

Anti-corruption through good government is one of the pillars of the 2005-2010 Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP). Based on the MTPDP articulation of the fight against corruption, anti-corruption agencies have updated their plans and action programs and rolled out pilot programs in 2005.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Executive Order No. 407 has designated the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel as Anti-Corruption Swift Action Team (SWAT) Leader. The Team Leader is also known as the Anti-Corruption Czar and the SWAT as Office of the Anti-Corruption Czar (OACC). The OACC is expected to serve as the overall coordinator of the national anti-corruption effort. The directive seeks to consolidate and strengthen past and current anti-corruption efforts of the government, the business sector, and civil society. The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) provides technical assistance and support to jumpstart its operations.

A major undertaking of the OACC and DAP is the updating of the National Anti-Corruption Plan. In view of this, the SWAT Leader, with the assistance of the DAP, has initiated a process where the different stakeholders will work together to come up with one National Anti-Corruption Program of Action. This process is called convergence.

The framework for the formulation of the National Anti-Corruption Program of Action (NACPA) through a convergence process has a defined sequence. It is envisioned to start with the public sector, meaning that the government will be the first to craft its anti-corruption program of action. After this, a Multi-Sector Anti-Corruption Program of Action Workshop will be held where the civil society and business sectors as well as the media will participate. Each sector will present its respective anti-corruption program of action. Then the different programs will be discussed and integrated into a National Anti-Corruption Program of Action, which will be the national anti-corruption blueprint of the Philippines.

However, two major activities are necessary to support this process: (1) the codification of anti-corruption initiatives being undertaken by the three branches of government, the constitutional bodies, the business sector, and civil society group and (2) the conduct of Stakeholders Summit to solicit multi-sectoral commitment to the NACPA. These two support activities to the NACPA have been provided funding by the United Nations Development Programme under its Country Programme Portfolio, Fostering Democratic Governance (Philippines).

When the then SWAT Leader, Secretary Gutierrez, was chosen as the Tanodbayan and assumed office as head of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) in December 2005, she

brought the project to the OMB and made it a part of the anti-corruption program of the office.

Undertaking this support project is important because there is a need to see the big picture of the current anti-corruption efforts of the country and to solicit the commitment of all sectors to the NACPA since it will be the anti-corruption plan of the Philippines.