

government entrants in their respective agencies to undergo the Orientation Seminar on Public Service Values and Accountability.

The Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission have required the conduct of the Values Orientation Workshop among all government employees, especially third-level personnel, in order to restore wholesome Filipino traits of yore like “*katapatan*” or honesty, “*kapayakan*” or simple living, “*pakikipagkapwa-tao*” or love for fellowmen and “*pananampalataya*” or faith in the Divine Providence.

The Office of the Ombudsman has also entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Sangguniang Kabataan National Federation and the National Youth Commission relative to the conduct of the Orientation Seminar on Public Accountability. This joint undertaking is designed to make the SKs an integral part of a strategic campaign and action plan that seeks to prevent, reduce and eliminate instances of graft and corruption in government offices.

The Office is also conducting symposia on graft and corruption control among the students, non-governmental organizations and the public sector.

#### 7. Linkages with other Government Institutions and International Corruption Fighters

In order to strengthen its campaign against the formidable problem on graft and corruption, the Office of the Ombudsman has entered into a joint undertaking with other government institutions.

The Ombudsman, together with the DECS, has developed corruption prevention and control education modules for the elementary and secondary levels which was implemented in June 2000. These modules are designed to inculcate among the students positive values such as honesty, integrity, uphold of common good and simple living.

The Ombudsman has also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Movie & Television Review & Classification Board (MTRCB) on August 11, 1997. The joint memorandum aims to protect the youth from imbibing distorted values and imitating corrupt behaviors from movie and television programs which propagate graft and corruption and to awaken the civic consciousness of the motion and television program producers.

There is also an efficient coordination among the anti-corruption agencies through the formation of the Inter-Agency

Coordinating Council among the Commission on Audit (COA), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (PCAGC) and the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB). In the pursuit of the cause of good government and the goal for a graft-free Philippines, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), the National Press Club (NPC) and the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) launched “NATIONWATCH” through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement in May 2000.

Our Office is also actively participating in the affairs of the Asian Ombudsman’s Association and the World Ombudsman’s Institute. On July 18-21, 2000, the Philippines hosted the Fifth Conference of the Asian Ombudsman’s Association.

#### 8. Systems And Procedures Improvement

Proactive approach employs a lot of foresight and anticipation. It requires knowledge of the systems being followed in major departments of government, particularly the weaknesses and loopholes of these systems which are conducive to corruption. The Office of the Ombudsman institutionalizes and intensifies the conduct of in-depth studies of systems and procedures of other agencies for purposes of recommending improvements/changes that prevent incidence of graft and other irregularities. With the perennial quest for determining the causes of inefficiency, red tape, mismanagement, fraud and corruption in the bureaucracy, the Office vigorously undertakes programs and projects for this purpose.

Also, the Office of the Ombudsman provides a good opportunity for students in the undergraduate and graduate levels to conduct studies and researches on the malaise of graft and corruption pervading in our society and with the hope of finding remedies on how the problem can be prevented or minimized, if not totally eradicated. This is made possible through the Research/Thesis Assistance Program.

This program is envisioned to awaken the consciousness of the youth and develop in them a deep sense of responsibility as active members of society in the fight against graft and corruption. It also serves as a positive reinforcement for the students to contribute their knowledge and wisdom towards nation-building by writing their research work on graft and corruption prevention and control.

# OMBUDSMAN’S 8 - POINT COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

- (1) Punitive and Retributive Method of Combating Corruption and Aggressive Imposition of Administrative Sanctions
- (2) Speedy and Aggressive Investigation and Prosecution of Graft Cases
- (3) Efficient and Responsive Public Assistance Program
- (4) Intensive Graftwatch Over the Bureaucracy
- (5) People Empowerment
- (6) Education and Transformation Of Individual Psyche through Values Orientation Seminars
- (7) Linkages with Other Government Institutions and International Corruption Fighters
- (8) Systems and Procedures Improvement



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**  
Community Coordination Bureau  
Public Assistance & Corruption Prevention Office

**The study** conducted by the United Nations Development Program estimated that the government lost P25 billion in official corruption. Recently, it was reported that no less than the World Bank has confirmed that more than 20% of the national budget is lost due to this malady. This would run at present to the tune of about P130 billion a year.

In Philippine jurisdiction, graft and corruption is basically a crime. It is plain and simple larceny, but with an added dimension. It involves the use of public office or employment. It is both an endemic and systemic problem.

Curbing corruption has its own problems and obstacles. Some are synthetic or inherent, and some surmountable. On logistics, for instance, while the campaign against corruption is the fourth priority undertaking of the government, the Office of the Ombudsman as the lead anti-graft agency has miniscule allocation of .065% of the national budget. On the other hand, logistics is what most of the targets of our campaign have in abundance and they conveniently use the very fruits of corruption to discredit the campaign.

The Philippines has the most complete and stringent penal laws on corruption. We impose the death penalty on plunder for instance, and our anti-graft law considers as corrupt practices even acts which tend to lead to corruption. On the other hand, however, the criminal due process is tedious and exacting. The accused has so many legal remedies available that a big-time grafter can simply hire the best law firms in town to ensure an endless proceeding.

But corruption prevention was the better policy, as experience has taught us, that government funds lost through corruption is almost impossible to retrieve. The idea is to nip corruption in the bud.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Ombudsman strategy is easily appreciated through its punitive component. But being accorded equal emphasis is the other component of its 8-point national comprehensive anti-corruption strategies, and that is, corruption prevention. The guiding principle for this approach is that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of prosecution.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE 8-POINT COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

The punitive approach is a reactive method of combating corruption. This consists of efficient detection of wrongdoing

### 1. Punitive and Retributive Method of Combating Corruption and Aggressive Imposition of Administrative Sanctions

As the forefront institution tasked to combat graft and corruption in our society, the Office of the Ombudsman established a punitive action program.

Under this strategy, the OMB employs aggressive and efficient graft detection, evidence build-up, investigation and administrative action. This directly targets the criminal and administrative offenders among public officials and employees. Once anomalies are uncovered, the same are investigated and the perpetrators are prosecuted in the Sandiganbayan for high-ranking functionaries and the regular trial courts for low-ranking officials and employees. Administrative proceedings are simultaneously conducted in the exercise of the Ombudsman's disciplinary authority over all elective and appointive officials, including cabinet members and excepting only the impeachable officials and the members of Congress and the Judiciary.

### 2. Speedy and Uncompromising Investigation and Prosecution of Graft Cases

This is to send the message to grafters that "whichever way you look at it, corruption does not pay." The immediate effect is deterrence to potential wrongdoers and to make graft and corruption a high-risk business. The Ombudsman will oppose any delaying tactics of the accused and will always strongly move for the speedy trial of all graft cases filed before the courts.

### 3. Efficient and Responsive Public Assistance Program

The Ombudsman, in order to ensure the speedy action in all requests for assistance, is strongly enforcing the observance of all government offices in the implementation of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 6713, mandating that all communications from the public should be acted upon within fifteen (15) days from receipt.

### 4. Intensive Graftwatch Over the Bureaucracy

The Ombudsman has installed Resident Ombudsmen among graft-prone departments and agencies of the government. To wit: DECS, DPWH, DOTC, DOH, DILG, DND, DENR, NPC, DA, NHA, HLURB, BOC, PPA, BI, DFA, BIR, NIA, PEZA, BOI, HUDCC, HDMF, HIGC, DFP, NAIA, COMELEC and PCSO. Their main job is to monitor official performance and transactions in order to prevent wheeling and dealing. They also address incidents of inefficiency where they happen and conduct systems and procedures studies.

### 5. People Empowerment

The Ombudsman enlisted the support of the citizenry because the magnitude of the corruption problem needs orchestrated efforts of all sectors of society. The OMB had organized and accredited non-governmental organizations as Corruption Prevention Units or CPUs. These CPUs serve as the Ombudsman's citizen arm in the fight against graft and corruption.

The students and youth, on the other hand, are organized and accredited as Junior Graftwatch Units or JGUs. CPUs and JGUs perform the function of monitoring the efficient delivery of basic services. Likewise, they assist the Ombudsman in graft detection and control.

### 6. Education and Transformation of Individual Psyche Through Values Orientation Seminars

It addresses the individual psyche to elevate one's level of morality and righteousness. Let us admit the fact that the proclaimed keepers of morality have failed because their efforts have been diverted to material issues.

The Ombudsman has issued a memorandum circular requiring government offices, including government-owned and controlled corporations and state universities and colleges, to require all new