

**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
SEVEN @ THIRTY**

**INSPIRING
Greater
ACCOUNTABILITY**

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JOURNEYS ARE JEWELS IN DISGUISE.

all about

This book, aptly entitled *Inspiring Greater Accountability*, traces the journey of the Office of the Ombudsman and locates the points of intersection between the past and the present, the institutional and the personal.

It has been thirty years -- or one generation -- since the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. It celebrated its Pearl Anniversary on the last year of the seven-year term of office of the incumbent Ombudsman. This is replete with symbolism as it threads the narrative of a process of cleansing, building and fortifying, in the same way that a piece of stone eventually becomes an iridescent and valuable piece of gem.

In 2011, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales stepped into the role as the chief graftbuster, and although already steeped in judicial experience as a retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, she herself admits that for the past seven years, she grew into the role with a clearer understanding of how the bureaucracy has been taken advantage of by unscrupulous and corrupt public officials.

The accomplishments of the Office, with Ombudsman Morales at the helm, have been exhaustively presented in the first part of this two-volume coffee table book. In Volume 2, we present her as the face of the institution - the “rockstar” of anti-corruption, so to speak. While in Volume 1, the numbers will speak for themselves, here in Volume 2, the photos will limn the different facets of an outstandingly courageous woman: the female gaze as a leader and an icon, as a mother to an institution, a public servant, and in the many ways she finds herself involved as the circumstances dictate.

the book

Ombudsman Morales has been frequently described as fierce and feisty by journalists and news organizations. In this second volume and in only as far as photographs could adequately and eloquently convey, we present her in the same light albeit framed in the context of an alpha woman.

In the words of writer Sarita King, “There are very few as stunning and breathtaking as an alpha woman. Her poised sense of self and her kind and firm ways are a masterful thing to behold. While others may lack courage and direction in life, the alpha woman knows exactly what she wants, who she is, and she is completely unapologetic about it.”

In the following pages, we present Ombudsman Carpio Morales as an alpha woman in 26 different iterations over the past seven years. We get to peek into how she epitomizes it as the head of the Office, *i.e.*, in how she deals with power, how she copes with the spotlight, how she lives with purpose, how she attains life-work balance, how she embraces change, how she deploys her language of love, compassion and kindness, how she takes risks, how she never gives up, how she stands up for truth and justice, and how she takes the cudgels for the subalterns. As a side note, this also led us to use the alphabet as our creative peg because we believe she is an **ALPHA B.E.T. (Born Extra Tough)**.

On a more serious note, however, -- and as a disclaimer of sorts -- the photos cannot fully capture that *je ne sais quois* (an indefinable quality that makes someone or something distinctive or attractive). It's the spaces between the pages which speak volumes.

As the alpha woman ends her journey in public service, it's a comforting thought that we are all enriched by her luminous legacy of integrity.

a



anniversaries









1988 - MARVIN PLAZA, Makati City



1990 - Old NAWASA Building, Arroceros Street, Manila



“... the more enduring grandeur and legacy lie not in the beauty of the building,



2013



2002

buildings



2017

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

but in the people who give life to the structure.”

- Ombudsman Morales (November 2017)

2015



“
We capacitate and empower the youth by developing their leadership skills and instilling the values of integrity through the Campus Integrity Crusaders. This is in line with the objective of producing new breed of responsible and



upright leaders who will champion the welfare of the Filipino people.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales



campus integrity crusaders



d

“I cannot overemphasize the importance of data integrity. It is an intangible tool for any public institution to effectively perform its mandate. The Ombudsman values the delivery of information in real time, any-time, all the time, as information without integrity is a waste of time and other resources.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales (August 2017)



data migration system



“
the DMS program is a prime example of a strong partnership among agencies and institutions based on unified anti-corruption goals.”

- US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim

e



environmental ombudsman



e



OMBUDSMAN EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



employees' welfare



THE OMBUDSMAN PROVIDENT FUND



fiscal autonomy





GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT



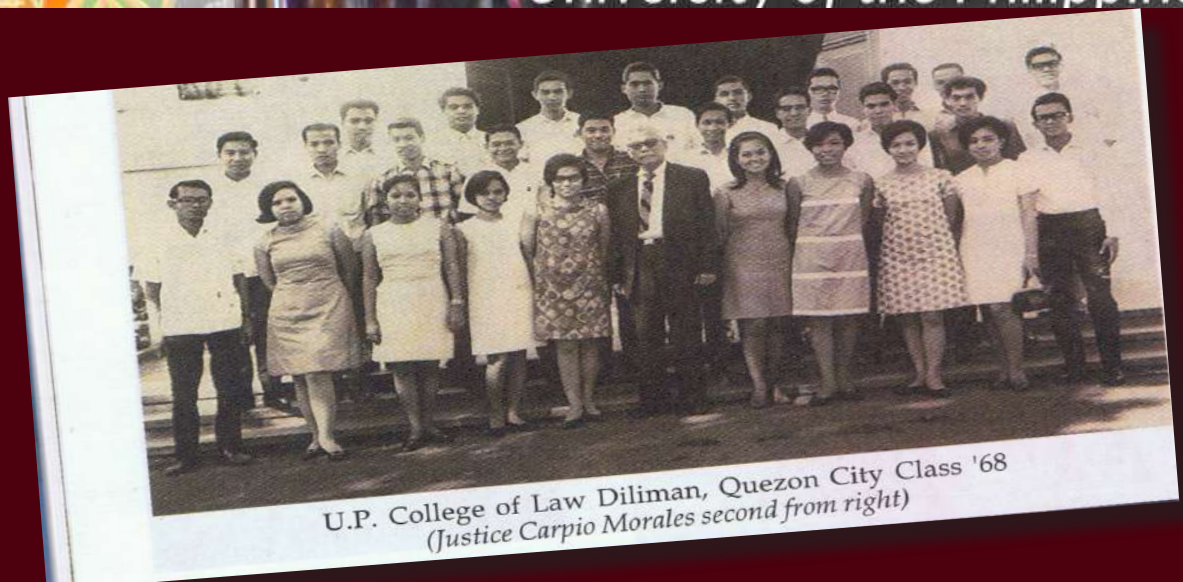
H

"How you use your
knowledge of the law
is what makes the difference.
How you act with that
license will be
your character.

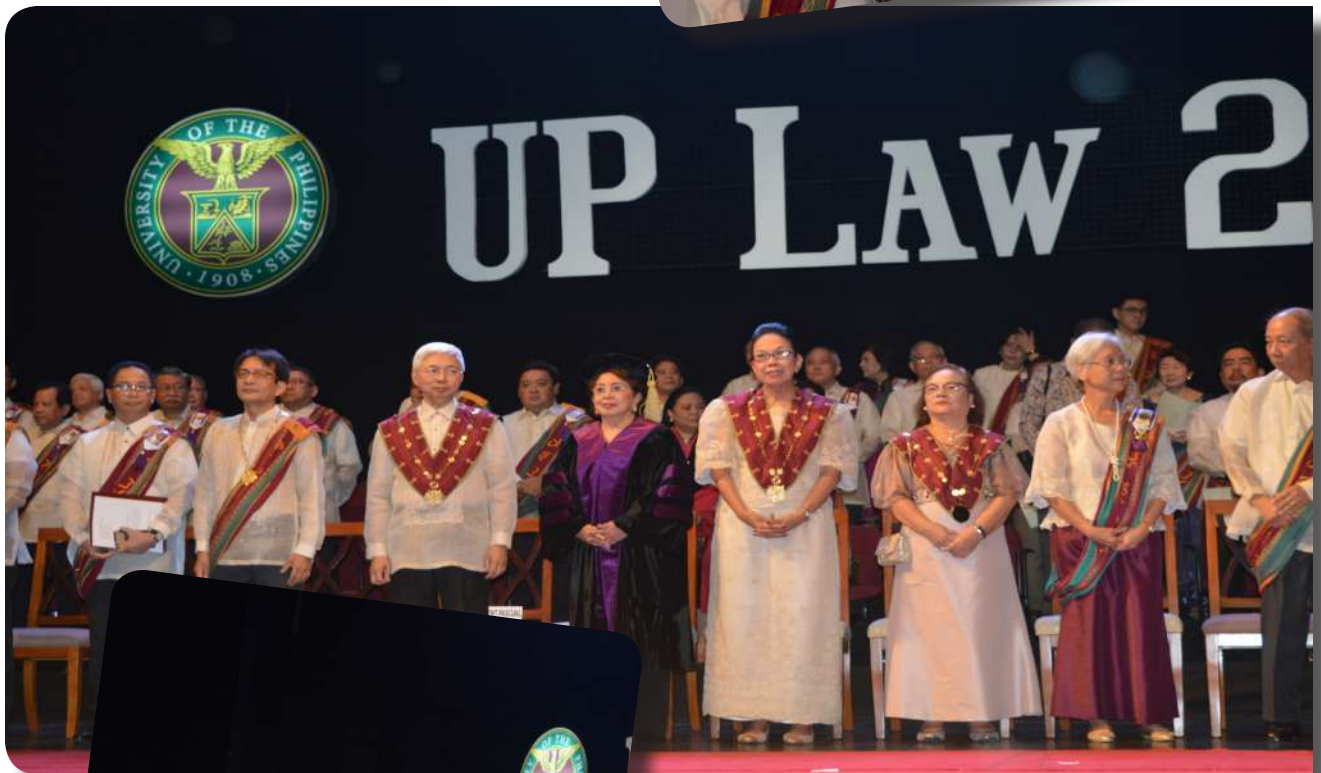
Give someone hope when
all hope is lost;
not to turn law into
an instrument
of oppression."

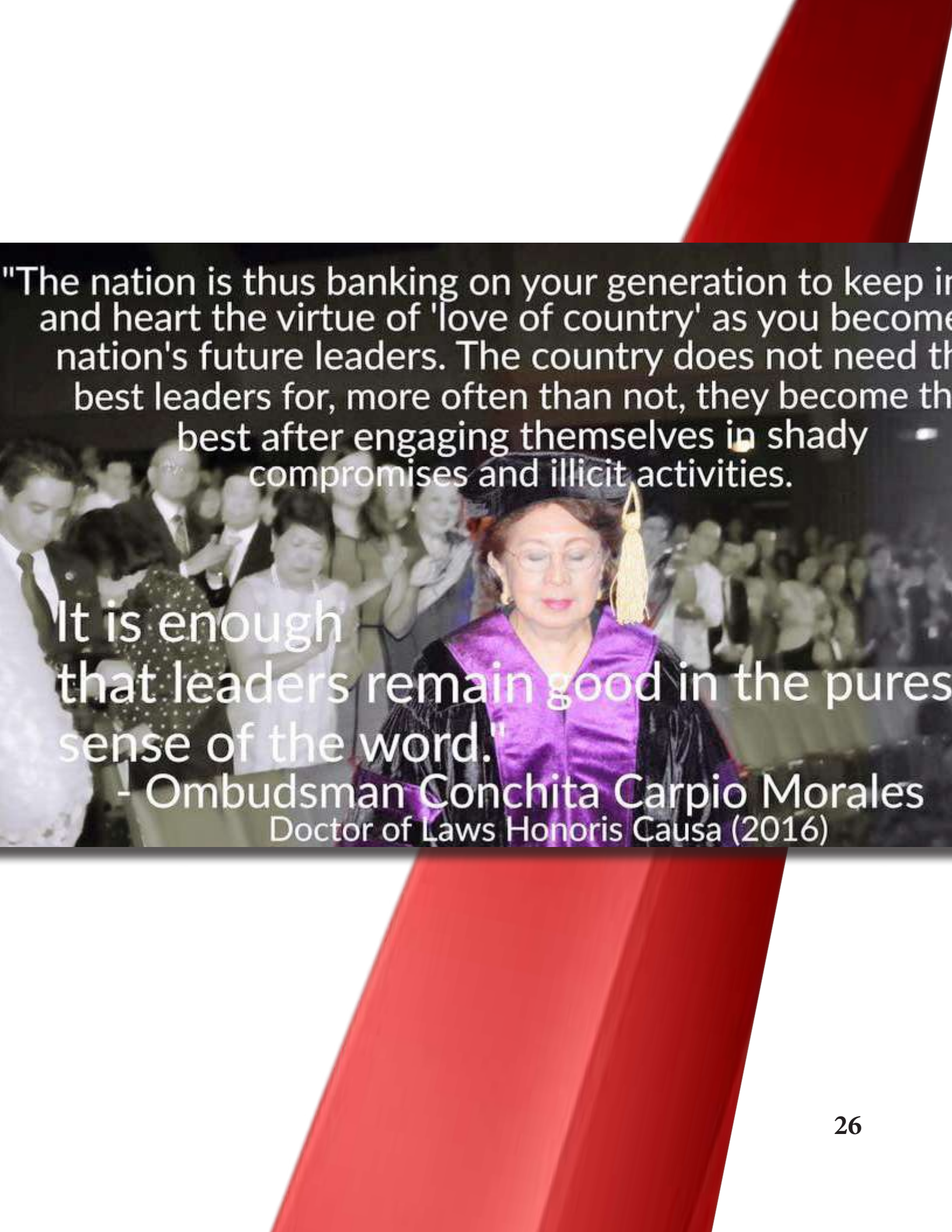
- Ombudsman Conchita
Carpio Morales

Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa (2016)
University of the Philippines



U.P. College of Law Diliman, Quezon City Class '68
(Justice Carpio Morales second from right)





"The nation is thus banking on your generation to keep in and heart the virtue of 'love of country' as you become nation's future leaders. The country does not need the best leaders for, more often than not, they become the best after engaging themselves in shady compromises and illicit activities.

It is enough that leaders remain good in the purest sense of the word."

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales
Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa (2016)

HONORIS CAUSA

"A UP diploma opens a plethora of opportunities to jumpstart your law career.

A UP diploma, however, should never be about self-entitlement."

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales

Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa (2016)
University of the Philippines

24

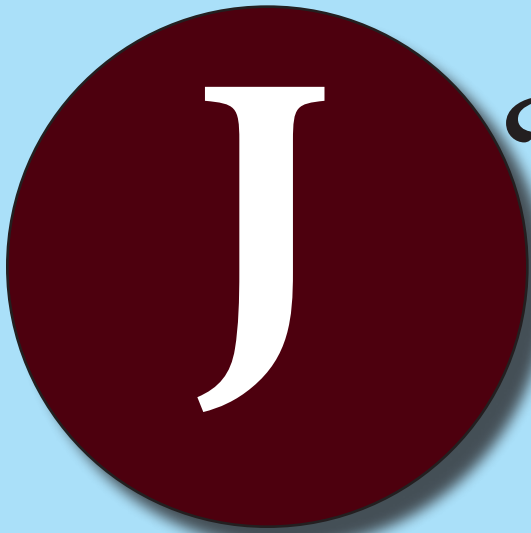


Oathtaking in 1969 of successful examinees in the 1968 Bar Examinations
(Justice Carpio Morales rightmost front row)

27







“

I'm not being coached.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales said in her testimony at the impeachment court (Corona impeachment), May 2012



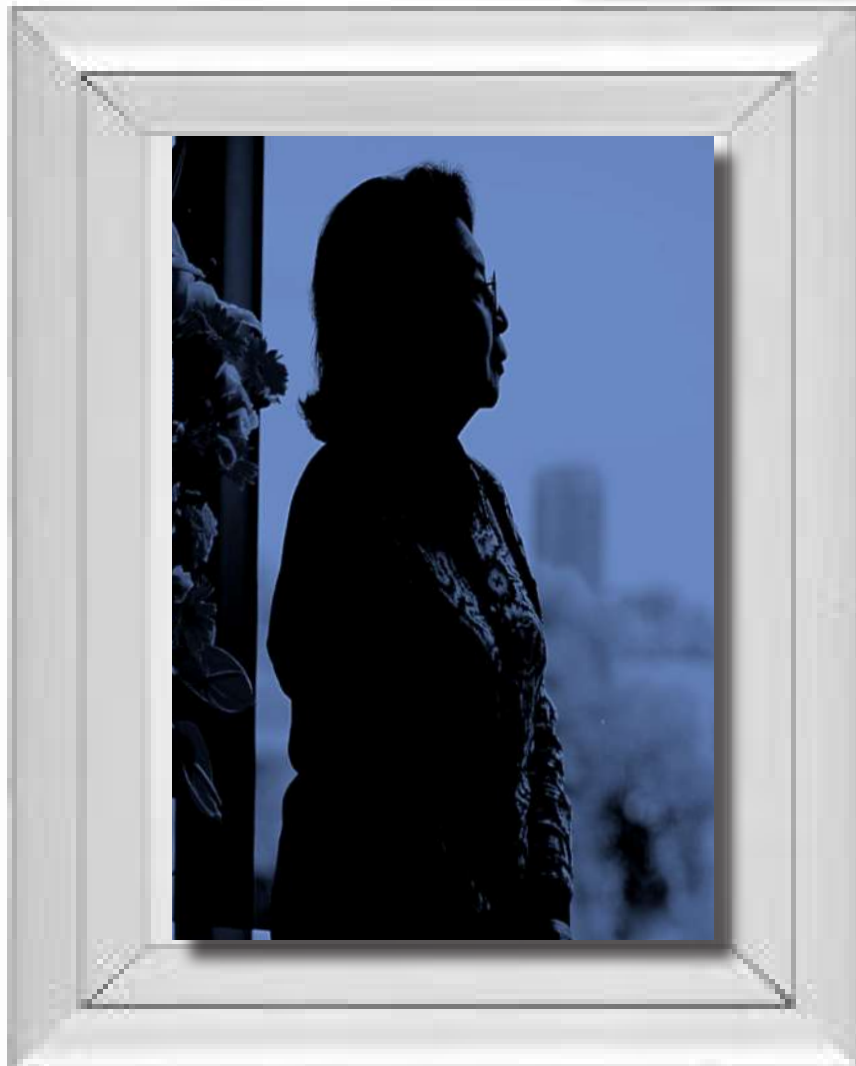
JUSTICE CHIT

*C*ompetence

*H*onesty

*I*ntegrity

*T*ransparency



K



KIDS (Child Development Center)



L



“
**Great
countries
need strong
institutions,**

**not
strongmen.”**

- Ombudsman Conchita
Carpio Morales (May 2018)



LEADERSHIP



m



*for greatness of spirit and
transformative leadership*



“*The highlight*

the RMAF board of trustees recognizes her moral courage and commitment to justice in taking head-on one of the most intractable problems in the Philippines; promoting by her example of incorruptibility, diligence, vision, and leadership, the highest ethical standards in public service.”



The citation

“ through her long career, she demonstrated the qualities of the quintessentially good public servant: professionalism, competence, integrity, and equanimity in the face of difficult challenges. She set a standard for herself when she said: ***The most difficult case to decide is the most fulfilling achievement. However you decide it, you come to a certain point that you think will spell the difference.***”



The response

Breaking tradition, Ombudsman Carpio Morales delivered a well-thought-of response. Couched in a letter heartwarminglly addressed to her grandchildren, she framed her acceptance speech in the context of national identity and family. An excerpt of the letter says:

Dear Ennio and Cece,

Grand C has just received this prestigious recognition.

I am often asked why I continue to work. I will now tell you my secret: I draw inspiration and energy from you. I continue working because I want to secure a just and honest society for you and for every Filipino child.

Please pray that Grand C and her colleagues at the Office of the Ombudsman will win the fight against corruption. Without the continued support of other stakeholders and most importantly, the family, it will remain an uphill battle.

Ennio and Cece, as you go to bed tonight, know that your grandmother is optimistic that your tomorrow will be a better day.

n



In my 15 years as a journalist, I have never been as fazed or rattled as when I'm throwing a question to JCCM. But you know what, hers are some of the wittiest, bravest, and most genuine answers I ever got - definitely newsworthy.

**- BERNADETTE REYES,
GMA News**



**through
their
lenses**



**through
their
lenses**



Her tough stance will surely be missed. Her successor has a very big shoes to fill. I wish her happy retirement, but please always be around and not retire from the limelight.
- TJ ROXAS, GMA News online



It took a special brand of courage to wield the fearsome powers of the Office of the Ombudsman with such equanimity and restraint, never once crossing the boundaries of propriety.

- PETER TABINGO, Malaya



sharp, pointed, straightforward and a warrior
- JILL RESONTOC, DWIZ



**through
their
lenses**

5 year Warranty Register now! http://panasonic.biz/sav/pass_e/ [EN] [35]
http://panasonic.biz/sav/pass_j/ [JP] [35]

through
their
lenses

Millennial reporters covering corruption will find themselves asking these 4 words everytime - what would JCCM do?

- LIAN NAMI BUAN,
Rappler

Intelligent and fierce. Deadly combo - perfect for chief graft-buster. Conchita Carpio Morales leaves big shoes to fill.

- ANNE CLAIRE NICHOLLS, CNN Phils

Lucid, knowledgeable, concise, frank yet civil and respectful - the kind of straight talk that will be missed.

-HOWIE SEVERINO,
GMA 7



O



OUTSTANDING WOMAN



p



The 'Three Furies'

person/people of the year

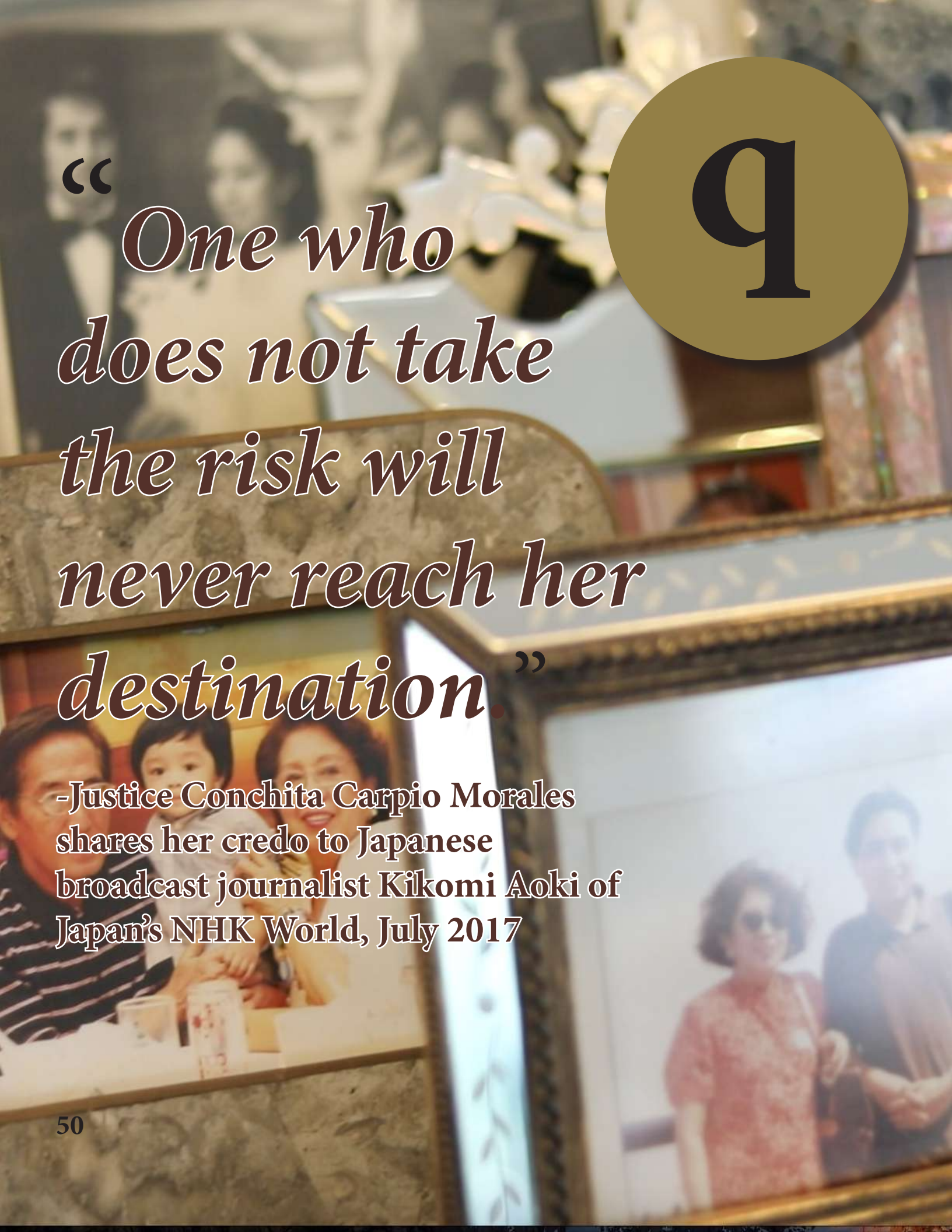




“

Without the rule of law, we are no better than savages who prey on each other, and are preyed upon by those who are more powerful. Without the rule of law, it is those in power who decide how we live our life, and even who lives or dies.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales' speech before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, May 2018

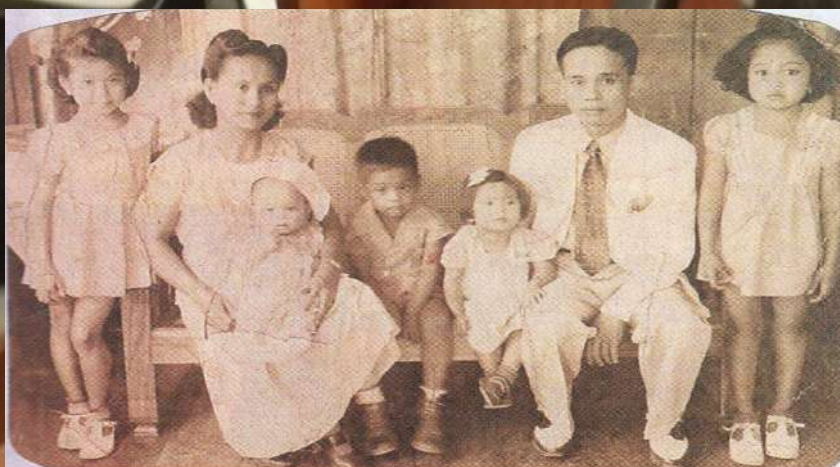


“*One who
does not take
the risk will
never reach her
destination.*”

-Justice Conchita Carpio Morales
shares her credo to Japanese
broadcast journalist Kikomi Aoki of
Japan's NHK World, July 2017

“El que no se arriesga, no llega a España.”

- the Spanish version of Ombudsman Morales' personal credo which she learned from her late father, Justice of the Peace Lucas D. Carpio



Then Justice of the Peace Lucas D. Carpio and Family in 1947. Justice Carpio Morales' youngest sibling Emmanuel was to be born years later.

r



retirement benefits







H EAST ASIA PARTIES
T CORRUP (SEAPAC)

d Opportunities then Co

27-29

SA Shangri-l



SEAPAC CHAIRMANSHIP



T

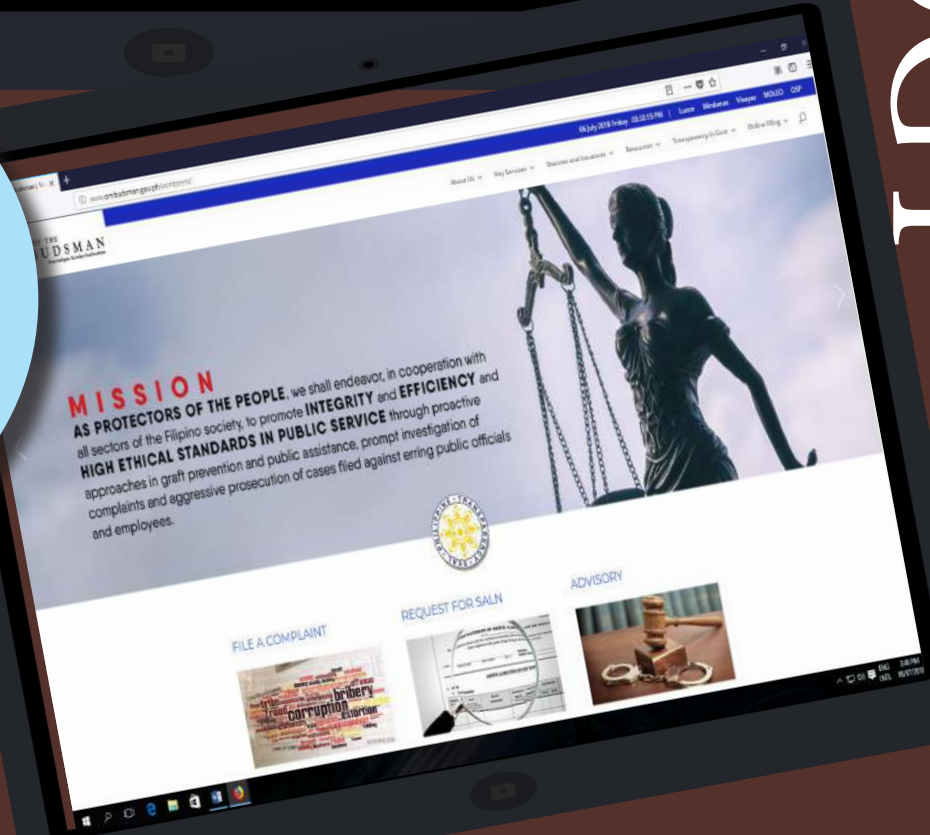


the new
OMB website

sleek design

TECHNOLOGY

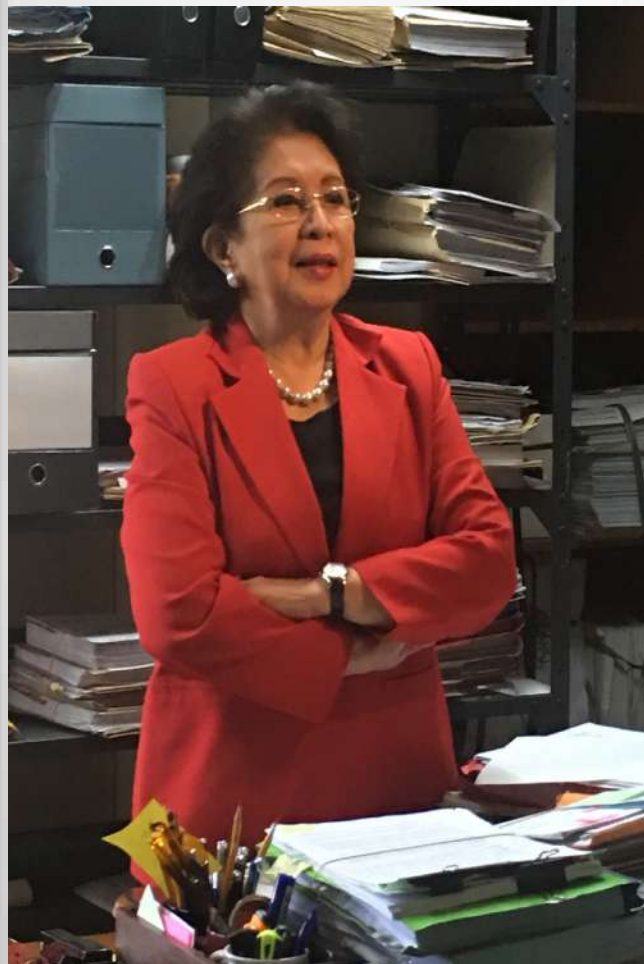
user-friendly
interface



U

“I will not jeopardize my 40 years in government service - spotless, I will be modest to say that -- just to be a tool for anyone to get back at certain persons.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales’ statement during Corona’s impeachment trial, May 2012



**Excerpt of HEADSTART interview
(ABSCBN News Channel, July 9, 2018)
Ms. Karen Davila with
Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales**

**ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CASES BEING FILED
AGAINST HER AFTER RETIREMENT:**

KAREN DAVILA (KD): Do you feel that when you retire, you're no longer the Ombudsman, they might file cases against you? Then, you'll be a private citizen, I'm curious how does that work?

CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES (CCM): That is something that I had been conjuring about. I know, they might, they could. That's a possibility. I'm open to it. I am ready.

KD: You sound that you're invincible, but when you retire, you'll be citizen Carpio Morales, do you sometimes have fears of "what might happen to me?" or "I was very tough...."

CCM: NO FEAR. NEVER. I'm not scared because I know that there was nothing that laced my decisions except good faith.





I, Chris-Osuna commit to a
Corrupt-Free
Philippines





“ We need to rethink communication because our media audience is now dominated by millennials. They are digital natives who do not only consume media but prefer creating their own content.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales

video competition





WAR ROOM





“NOTHING discloses real character like the use of power. It is easy for the weak to be gentle. Most people can bear adversity. But if you wish to know what a man really is, give him power. This is the supreme test.”
- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales quotes Robert Green Ingersoll (July 2018)



*“I’m flattered but I know
my limitations.”*

-Ombudsman Morales’ quick repartee to
suggestions that she should seek elective office

X



X'MAS PRESENTATION





“

.... take risks, stand up for truth, speak out against injustice, articulate your thoughts” - these were Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales’ pieces of advice to the participants of the Baguio Cityleg of the Youth Empowerment Forum 2018 (an integral part of the Office’s Integrity Caravan program).



the fast talk

corner

rabonhng luring bahag - pusit
 Huling hiling mo na tinupad ni Lord - ba lha
 Bagay na huling binik mo - make up
 Pura ka agaw mo ng ginagawa sayo
 Favorite subject - Poni
 Saan banda ang kilik mo - everywhere
 Yes or no- Are you faithful - yes
 Pera o pag-ibig - none
 Cheapest thing you've used - food
 Music or movies - music
 Biggest dream mo - ba lha



FIDGETY, ANXIOUS and INTIMIDATED initially by the Ombudsman's presence, the students found their groove as soon as Justice Carpio Morales engaged them in millennial speak. The relaxed environment paved the way for a free-wheeling and well-meaning conversation - ranging from the professional (anti-corruption advocacy, environmental, justice, indigenous people) to the personal.

But one student took to heart the Ombudsman's advice and respectfully asked for the Ombudsman's indulgence for a FAST TALK. Stepping up to the plate, Joshua Bactin of the University of Baguio came away with an experience and memories that will last him a lifetime.

Here's the Ombudsman's answers to Joshua's thought-provoking questions. The FAST TALK showed the Ombudsman's wonderfully mischievous sense of humor. Obviously, the Ombudsman was, in the words of the millennials, G(ame)! #litfam

----> word doodles, witty answers

are you faithful? yes, to my husband & the rule of law

last answered prayer: good health LATEST PURCHASE: make-up

location ng kilikiti> everywhere favorite food> pusit

movies or music? music anytime favorite subject: SECRET

biggest dream> to be an ambassador

youth empowerment forum

Z



“As my term as the fifth Ombudsman comes to a close, I am in a unique position to present an exhortation to the Filipino public to continue to support the Office of the Ombudsman.

While I take that first step away from official duty, I take my first step as Citizen Conchita. I take my place with you, the multitude of fellow citizens who, I hope, will continue to be unfaltering advocates of good governance.”

*- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales
July 12, 2018*



the postface



“

Maybe it is time for me to smell the flowers, so to speak, because I have been in the government for decades and maybe I need a fresh outlook, a fresh environment. Of course, I will have more time to devote to my two grandchildren.” - Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, June 23, 2018





2018

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Public Information and Media Relations Bureau