



2006
Annual Report

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FOREWORD

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN



The year of 2006 was one of beginnings, both for me and for the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB). A month before it started, I was given the responsibility, and the honor, of being the country's Tanodbayan. Consequently, the Office of the Ombudsman has had to cope with a new head with a new way of looking at and doing things.

Working together with nothing to go by but trust on each other, we formulated our vision, our way of looking at what the OMB ought to do and how it ought to achieve these goals. For us, the OMB ought to ensure that the fight against corruption is sustained with corruption aversion becoming part of the Filipino value system, and that institutions and systems are reformed to prevent corruption. All these, the OMB ought to do while prosecuting, to the optimal extent of the law, corrupt public officials.

We then mapped out our strategies, knowing that our goals require the best from us. These strategies include strengthening our investigation and prosecution of corrupt officials, as well as our corruption prevention initiatives, enhancing our linkages with our partners in the fight against corruption, bringing the OMB closer to the people by facilitating the delivery of government services, and educating the general public of the nature, causes, costs, and prevention of corruption.

Inspired by our new vision, comforted by the validity and feasibility of our strategies, and drawing strength from each other's talents and dedication, we set out to fulfill our mandates and achieve our goals. While at times stumbling and even falling flat on our faces, our efforts bore fruit last year. The number of cases we filed before the Sandiganbayan against high-ranking officials increased by 89%. We also set in place some of the more vital of the building blocks for the more relevant public participation in, and support of, the government's anti-corruption efforts. Finally, we have given the appropriate emphasis on the reform of institutions and systems that would curb the occurrence of corruption in public offices.

All of these we did in 2006 with the unshakable belief that deep in each Filipino's heart lies a dislike of corruption so potent that, once let loose, can be harnessed into the irresistible force that will ultimately vanquish corruption in the Philippines. We believe we have set in motion the setting free of this force last year. We will continue to do so in the years to come.

MA. MERCEDITAS N. GUTIERREZ

Ombudsman

I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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The Office of the Ombudsman or OMB is the constitutional accountability authority in government. The powers, organization, staffing and operations of the Ombudsman are set forth in the 1987 Constitution and Republic Act No. 6770, otherwise known as the Ombudsman Act of 1987.

In pursuit of its constitutional mandate of protecting the rights of the people, the OMB is continuing the fulfillment of its mission to promote integrity, efficiency and the highest ethical standards in public service. Specifically, the OMB exercises the following powers:

- Oversee the performance of government agencies and public officials to ensure laws are administered and executed justly, fairly and equally;
- Effectively enlist broad support from multi-sectoral stakeholders through the establishment and strengthening of existing partnerships with the civil society, business, academe, youth and other sectors of society;
- Review policies, systems, procedures and practices of specific government agencies to address inefficiencies; and
- Impose disciplinary sanctions on erring government officials and prosecute them criminally and civilly.

The Ombudsman has jurisdiction over:

- Officials and employees of the government or any of its subdivision, agency or instrumentality, including

members of the cabinet, local government officials, officials of government owned- and controlled corporations; and

- Private individuals who have acted in conspiracy with the foregoing officials.

Submission of complaints and the process of investigation

The Office of the Ombudsman undertakes any matter, which falls under its jurisdiction, on its own initiative or upon written or oral complaint by any individual, partnership, corporation or entity concerned. Complaints may be made in person, by mail, fax, text message or telephone to the public assistance bureaus or any of the established OMB hotlines. If a complaint is sufficient in form and substance, the complaint will be subjected to preliminary investigation and/or administrative adjudication. Otherwise, the complaint will be subjected to further fact-finding investigation. If the complaint is a mere grievance or request for assistance, it shall be referred to the OMB public assistance offices.

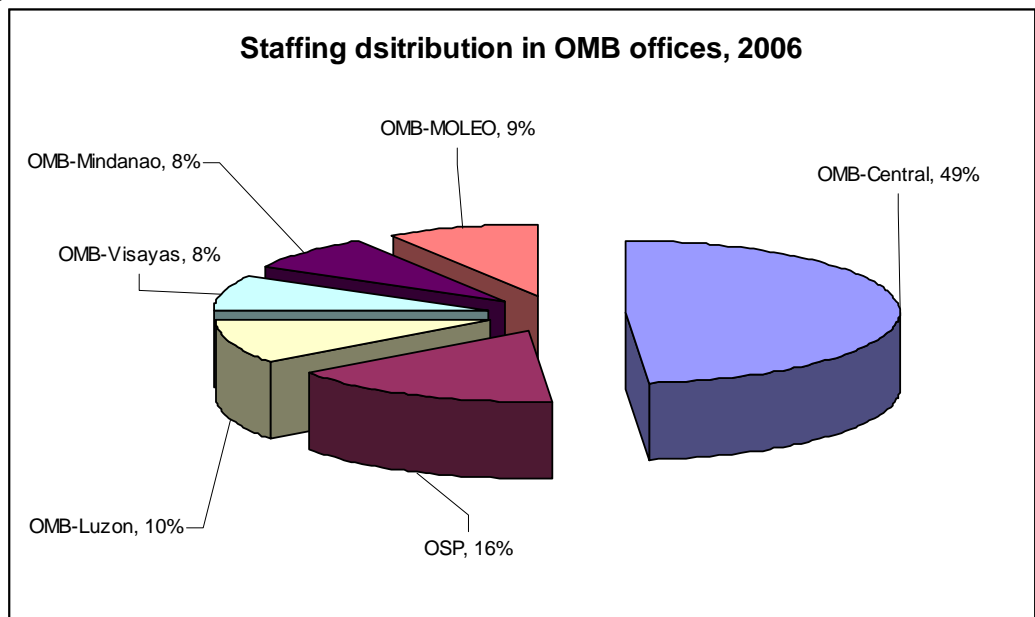
The Ombudsman can:

- Administer oaths, subpoena documents and witnesses;
- Direct the taking of appropriate action against erring public officials;
- Request the assistance of any government agency; and
- Publicize matters covered by OMB investigations, if necessary.

The refusal of any government official to cooperate with any of the investigation conducted by the OMB can result in the filing of criminal and administrative charges against such person or hold him/her in contempt, in accordance with the Rules of Court.

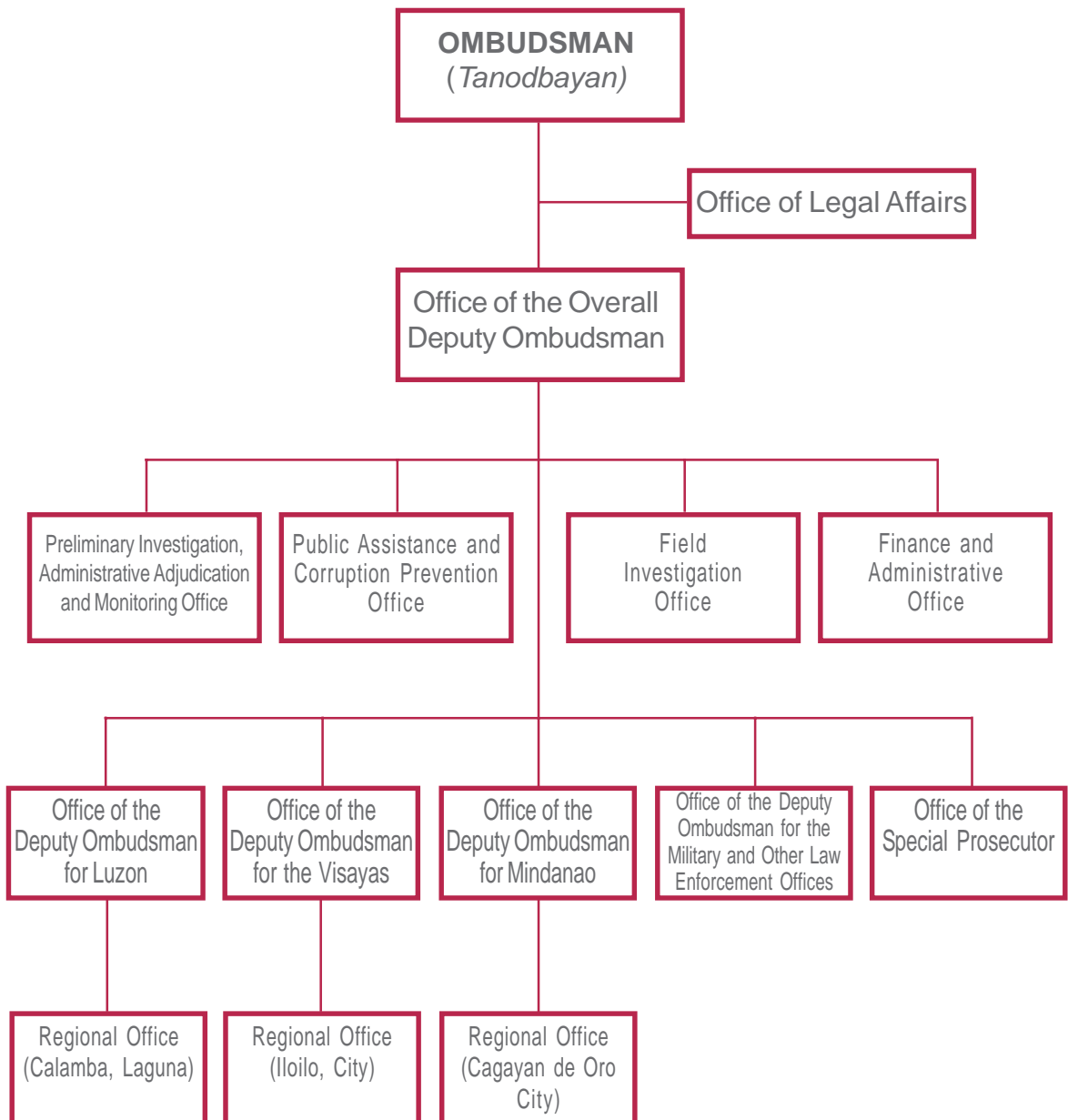
Organization and staffing

As of December 31, 2006, the total number of Ombudsman personnel is 969. The charts below present the staff distribution across Ombudsman offices and organizational structure.



*In the case of **Office of the Ombudsman vs. Civil Service Commission** (G.R. No. 162215 dated 30 July 2007), the Supreme Court declared that the Ombudsman is empowered to determine and establish the qualifications, duties, functions and responsibilities of the various directorates and allied services of the Office.*

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN



II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- A. Prosecution and Deterrence*
- B. Prevention & Public Assistance*
- C. Anti-Corruption Education & Promotion*
- D. Finance and Administrative Services*



A. PROSECUTION & DETERRENCE

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The Constitution accords the independent Ombudsman with the power to investigate corruption allegations against any public official or employee (except against those who may be removed by impeachment or over members of Congress and of the judiciary), adjudicate the ensuing administrative case and/or prosecute the criminal/civil case. It can also investigate impeachable offenses for the purpose of filing a verified complaint for impeachment. The OMB can request any government agency for assistance and information that are necessary in the discharge of its corruption detection function. It can even publicize matters covered by its investigation and grant immunity from criminal prosecution to state witnesses.

Strategic plan 2006-2009

Upon assuming office, Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez led the OMB in a strategic planning exercise to prioritize goals and identify necessary resources towards the achievement of those goals. The following are the commitments in anticorruption enforcement in the strategic plan:

- Continue to pursue the punitive aspect of corruption and strengthen strategies to revert back to the government the proceeds of corruption;
- Continue the organizational development of investigation and prosecution offices;
- Strengthen allies with international and local partners to expand the coalition against corruption;
- Monitor cases filed in the lower courts; and
- Ensure teamwork of field investigators and prosecutors in case building;

Prosecution and deterrence

In 2006, the OMB, through its Office of the Special Prosecutor, filed 515 criminal cases, 89% more than those filed in 2005, against 158 high-ranking officials before the *Sandiganbayan*. It also filed 286 criminal cases against 384 low-ranking officials before the lower courts.

Of the total cases that were terminated after trial before the *Sandiganbayan*, almost 20% of the cases have at least one of the accused convicted. This rate includes guilty pleas secured during the course of trial. Among the high-ranking officials convicted were a commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, an executive director of the National Maritime Polytechnic in Tacloban City, the general-manager of the Bacolod City Water District, and a former mayor of Pampanga. So were a regional director of the Department of Education, an acting provincial prosecutor from Bukidnon, an assistant city prosecutor, a Davao school administrator, and several municipal mayors.

The OMB, with support from World Bank, developed a case management system software to better handle and monitor the trial of cases in the *Sandiganbayan*.

The OMB has the power to impose the following administrative sanctions on erring public officials: dismissal from service, suspension, reprimand and fines. In 2006, 213 government officials were administratively penalized, 143 or 67% of whom were meted out the most severe

*The Supreme Court ruled in **Office of the Ombudsman vs. Farida T. Lucero and CA** (G.R. No. 168718, 24 November 2006) that in the exercise of its administrative disciplinary authority under the Constitution and R.A. 6770, the Ombudsman is empowered not merely to recommend, but to impose the penalty of removal, suspension, demotion, fine, censure, or prosecution of a public officer or employee found to be at fault.*

disciplinary sanction of dismissal from service. Among the officials penalized were those from agencies whose corruption vulnerability index had been high. These officials included a public works undersecretary, a revenue district officer, a revenue collection officer, and a customs operation officer. Military officials, including ranking officers of the Philippine Navy and an accountant of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also received administrative sanctions

The Office also issues preventive suspensions against officials with pending corruption cases to pre-empt them from influencing the course of their cases. More than 130 public officials were preventively suspended last year.

Lifestyle checks and asset forfeitures

The lifestyle check is an investigation strategy developed by anticorruption agencies in the Philippines to prove the existence of ill-gotten and unexplained wealth. Last year, the OMB continued strengthening its capability to conduct lifestyle checks by forging **cooperative arrangements** with key enforcement agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation

and Detection Group for police matters, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council for access to bank documents. A **lifestyle check hotline** was also launched as a dedicated channel for reporting incidents of corruption and leads on ill-gotten or unexplained wealth of public officials. With assistance from World Bank, a **database of Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth** was mounted to facilitate easy investigative research for lifestyle check cases. In 2006, more than 50 government officials were charged with criminal and administrative felonies resulting from lifestyle checks.

By December 2006, the value of assets that were subjects of OMB forfeiture petitions against high-ranking officials filed before the Sandiganbayan **exceeded PhP486 million**. To further bolster the strategy for recovering proceeds of corruption, the OMB spearheaded the creation of an **inter-agency task force** to explore strategies for pursuing cases involving corruption, tax evasion, and money laundering. The task force counts as its members the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Department of Justice,

***Edmundo Jose T. Buencamino v. CA, Office of the Ombudsman & Constantino Pascual** (G.R. No. 175895, 12 April 2007): A decision of the Office of the Ombudsman in administrative cases shall be executed as a matter of course. x x x.*

An appeal under AO No. 17, the amendatory rule, shall not stop the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman from being executory. Sec. 13(8), Art. XI of the Constitution authorizes the OMB to promulgate its own rules.

the Office of the Solicitor General and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Complaints filed before the Ombudsman

In 2006, the Ombudsman received more than 8,000 complaints that merited preliminary investigation and/or administrative adjudication. Among the five major offices of the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO) had the biggest share of complaints. **This indicates public trust in reporting corruption in the military.** (See Figure 1)

To encourage whistleblowing and voluntary reporting, the Ombudsman, in partnership with the Ateneo’s Center for Social Policy through the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus, launched the **Aha! A Citizen’s Primer on Whistleblowing.**

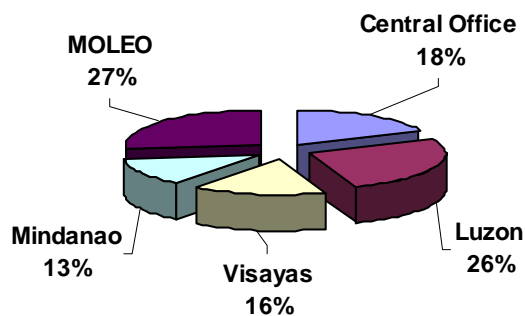
The primer provides practical guidance and procedures for potential whistleblowers. It also emphasizes the benefits of whistleblowing to society, as well as the risks of being a whistleblower in the Philippines.

Training and knowledge resources

The OMB continued to carry out capacity-building activities for its enforcement offices. With support from international development partners, such as the USAID Rule of Law Effectiveness (ROLE) Project, World Bank-ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting), and The Asia Foundation, investigators, adjudicators and prosecutors were trained in **investigation technique, substantive law, legal writing and research.** With assistance from USAID ROLE, a series of **CD lectures on the four most commonly-charged offenses** in the

Ombudsman was introduced as orientation materials for new investigator and prosecutor recruits. The CD lectures tackle bribery, malversation, contracts disadvantageous to government and causing undue injury to government. A **digital compendium of anticorruption laws and jurisprudence** is currently being developed, also with USAID ROLE support to facilitate effective preparation of investigation reports, resolutions, administrative decisions, trial pleadings, etc.

Fig. 1 Percentage Distribution of Cases Received for CY 2006



Special projects in enforcement

The unauthorized use of government vehicles, corruption in public schools, and the illegal towing of vehicles are perhaps the most visible forms of graft and corruption. Their impact on the public’s perception of the extent of graft and corruption in government is thus substantial. To curb these practices and thus restore public faith in the government’s anti-corruption efforts, the OMB initiated three projects in 2006.

OPLAN Red Plate is a quick-response task force in-charge of pursuing criminal and administrative cases against public officials caught using government vehicles beyond office hours and in places not connected with their official functions. Almost 100 public officials were charged under Oplan red plate in 2006.

Sama-samang Pagkilos Laban sa Katiwalian Para sa Kabataan or SAPAK is a task force that investigates irregularities in school building construction, teacher items for sale, overpricing of uniforms, illegal collection of miscellaneous fees, and other abuses and offenses related to the delivery of public education.

Task Force Illegal Hatak investigates abuses and illegal practices of towing operations including possible conspiracy activities between the towing operators and government officials. Consonant to its operations, the task force required the local governments of Metro Manila to submit their ordinances, list of accredited towing companies and their respective impounding areas in exploring the possibility of having a reasonable set of uniform standards for towing practices.



Resident Ombudsmen in Mindanao implement the O-Plan Red Plate

B. PREVENTION & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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The OMB has the mandate to direct government agencies to take measures to prevent corruption and ensure the efficient delivery of public services. This mandate requires that the preventive approach to combating corruption be given the same emphasis as that traditionally given to the punitive approach. Under the preventive approach, public sector systems must be designed to prevent and capture corrupt acts. The deterrence efforts under the punitive approach will be futile if government processes and practices allow corruption to persist.

Integrity Development Review

In 2004, the OMB piloted the Integrity Development Review (IDR) of its own offices with assistance from USAID. Such an exercise enabled the OMB to review the robustness of its system against corruption and, at the same time, set an example to other government offices in implementing corruption prevention initiatives. The IDR is a compendium of diagnostic tools – self-assessment scorecard for managers, feedback survey of employees and corruption vulnerability assessment – that allows an agency to assess its level of corruption and plan out anticorruption safeguards.

In 2006, the Ombudsman completed the IDR of five agencies considered to be most vulnerable to corruption activities. The key outcome of an IDR process is a set of integrity and transparency reforms that the agency pledged to undertake. Below is a preview of the 2006 IDR agency commitments:

The **Bureau of Customs** (BOC) committed to automate its assessment

process and install a tracking system for handling seizures and forfeitures, regulate accreditation of importers, hasten auction process, computerize inventory of goods for auction, install surveillance cameras in warehouses and revisit its recruitment and promotion policies and procedures. It installed several x-ray machines to inspect incoming shipments, thus reducing the inspection processing time by between 5 to 10 minutes. Preparation for automation efforts is ongoing. Moreover, the BOC carried out personnel and financial audit of 13 ports.

The **Bureau of Internal Revenue** (BIR) will regularly revalidate case dockets, and strictly implement the “no return, no letter of authority” policy. In terms of personnel management, it also plans to rotate staff deployed to the one-time transaction program, preclude political recommendation letters from the recruitment and promotion line-up and address the problem of borrowed items.

The **Department of Public Works and Highways** (DPWH) intends to standardize unit costs of materials and services; conduct random validation audits to check overstated quantities, bloated prices and defective works; and promote third-party involvement in checking billings and vouchers.

The **Philippine National Police** (PNP) will promote grievance channels, ensure the confidentiality of voluntary reports of corruption, as well as strengthen the independence of the internal affairs unit. The PNP also issued rules that prohibit the

acceptance or solicitation of gifts and benefits from their transacting public. “Honesty Teams” were formed to weed out erring policemen involved in extortion, mulcting, bribery and other illegal activities. The agency also put up a reporting hotline, PNP TEXT 2920 for complaint handling.

The **Land Transportation Office (LTO)** plans to set a queuing system and a standard processing time for resolving LTO cases, minimize face-to-face interaction with the public, and secure the storage of registration plates.

The OMB assisted these agencies in forming Integrity Development Committees tasked to monitor the implementation of IDR reforms. The OMB is an automatic member of this integrity mechanism.

In December 2006, the OMB signed a memorandum of agreement with the following 11 government agencies for the next round of the IDR:

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- Department of National Defense;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Agrarian Reform;
- Light Rail Transit Authority;
- Land Registration Authority;
- Bureau of Corrections;
- Bureau of Fire Protection;
- Armed Forces of the Philippines: Navy and Procurement;
- National Irrigation Administration; and
- Department of Budget and Management – Procurement Service.

“The output of the 6-month IDR exercise is not the culmination of the IDR project. There should be other steps to carry it forward. Our office will continue working together with external stakeholders, such as the CSOs and NGOs. We should assist one another in monitoring IDR implementation and keep the bayanihan values of collaboration and partnership burning.

And for their part, i urge the top management of the IDR participating agencies — BOC, BIR, DPWH, LTO and PNP — to facilitate and fully support the establishment of Integrity Development Committees in their respective offices.”

-- Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez

Success story

The Department of Education recently bidded out a PhP50 million project for the supply and delivery of fortified noodles, biscuits and milk to division offices. G-Watch, an accredited civil society BAC observer of the Ombudsman, reported fraudulent bid documents of the winning bidder. The DepEd resident ombudsman then verified the report and informed DepEd management regarding the malfeasance. Soon after, the bidding was declared a failure.

Procurement

The OMB designated resident ombudsmen to handle reports of fraud pertaining to procurement activities of government agencies. These officials are placed in the agency they are to monitor. The Asia Foundation and Procurement Watch, Inc. provided support for this activity.

Community partnerships for corruption prevention

With support from USAID ROLE, the OMB, Department of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, G-watch, and public school stakeholders **worked together to pilot test a tool for monitoring**

public school construction projects.

Through this project, a simple do-it-yourself monitoring guide was developed to empower principals, teachers, students and parent-teacher associations of public schools to monitor on-site the work of contractors. Monitoring activities in 30 constructions sites in Luzon are ongoing. Preliminary monitoring reports reveal that timeliness and cost-effectiveness in school construction projects will be achieved when the community participates in the monitoring exercise.

The OMB also accredited 25 **Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs)** and 192 **Junior Graft Watch Units (JGUs)** to serve as eyes and ears of the Ombudsman in various government agencies.



Consultative training-seminar for CPUs

For the year 2006, the Office of the Ombudsman received a total of 13,645 **requests for assistance** (RAs). With 2,224 RAs carried over from last year, the total workload for the year totaled 15,869.

The Office provided responsive and efficient assistance to 13,941 requests, about 88% of the total workload. It facilitates the access of a citizen to the services given by a government agency should this be required and requested by the citizen.

The OMB also issued 42,302 clearances and/or certifications with pending cases to retirees, promotees and probable appointees in government.

Aside from going to the different offices of the Ombudsman, a citizen requiring the assistance of the Office in accessing basic government services, may also attend the **“Meet with the Ombudsman”** event held every third Friday of the month. This event aims to bring the Office closer to the people and to promote greater awareness on the OMB’s public assistance mandate. It also serves as an avenue for the Ombudsman to personally meet and attend and cater to the needs/grievances and concerns of the public seeking assistance from the Office. In 2006, one “Meet the Ombudsman” event was held in the central office and seven more were conducted in different depressed areas in Metro Manila, Cebu and Cotabato. In these events, officials from GSIS, SSS, Doctors, Dentists Medical Technologists, Lawyers were brought closer to the public.



C. EDUCATION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION PROMOTION

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If anti-corruption efforts are to be sustained, public support and participation must be harnessed and then mobilized. A public that is intolerant of corruption keeps the government committed in fighting corruption.

Recognizing these imperatives, the Office of the Ombudsman, with support from the European Commission, undertook the following programs to enlist the support of the citizenry for graft detection and to produce a new breed of Filipinos with strong moral character:

1. The **“Ehem! Aha!” Program** aims to establish a graft-intolerant culture through the process of cultural sensitivity and discernment;

2. **Integrity TV Show** was a key activity in communicating the anti-corruption reforms and initiatives of the Office in partnership with the civil society/non-governmental organizations, partner government agencies, media, business and the academe. The show inspired, encouraged and challenged the wider public to join the OMB in its fight towards curbing graft and corruption;

3. **Integrity Newsletter** was distributed to raise anticorruption awareness and to encourage the public to get involved in corruption prevention. It features activities and corruption prevention initiatives of OMB and its partners particularly in anticorruption;

4. **AntiCorruption Song Writing Competition** is a musical activity that is part of the communications plan for the EC-OMB Corruption Prevention Project. 190 songwriters all over the country contributed 259 songs bearing their messages and

aspirations for having collective action towards a lasting culture of integrity and excellence;

5. The **Multi Event Competition** carried out debate, essay-writing, and slogan and poster-making competitions to raise anti-corruption awareness.

6. The conceptualization and execution of a **Communications Plan**, which aims to inform the public of OMB’s efforts to fight corruption, and harness public support for, and participation in, the fight against corruption; and

7. With support from the British Council, the OMB also developed **LSC Infomercial**, which is a 30-second anti-corruption public service advertisement in support of the government’s lifestyle check program;

8. Other anti-corruption promotion and education initiatives include the **Research/Thesis Assistance Program**, which supports the research or thesis work of students in the undergraduate and graduate levels on graft and corruption prevention and control;

9. **Public Accountability Seminars** given to barangay officials to apprise them of their duties under the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA67130) and educate them on anti-corruption laws;

9. The regular publication of **Sentinel and PAB News** and annual publication of the **Journal**.

D. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

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One of the focuses of the Office of the Ombudsman in 2006 was the building of its capacities to respond adequately and efficiently to the demands imposed on it, both from within and outside its walls. Primary of these demands were those emanating from the new goals and directions identified in the same year.

During the year, the Office increased its staff complement, hiring 164 more personnel (73 lawyer positions and 91 non-lawyer positions). It also strengthened its human resource development program, conducting various training and workshops to increase the knowledge and skills that its staff need to more effectively and efficiently perform corruption deterrence, corruption prevention, anticorruption education and public assistance functions. In some units, especially the deterrence offices, organizational re-engineering was undertaken. Organizational structures were reviewed and adjustments made. Personnel knowledge and skills were also studied to match the evolving responsibilities of the OMB. Moreover, middle-management underwent capacity-building processes to empower them to become effective leaders and facilitators of the efficient delivery of OMB services to the public. The Philippines-Australian Human Resource Development Facility or PAHRDF provided support for the human resource development enhancements in the OMB.

In the area of financial administration, the OMB achieved 100% implementation of the Electronic New Government Accounting System (eNGAS). As envisioned, the eNGAS facilitates the timely, accurate and transparent processing and recording of OMB financial transactions.

III. NACPA: A UNITED FRONT AGAINST CORUPTION

The onslaught of negative publicity brought about by perception surveys on corruption, and hyped by the media, over the past years has hurt the country. Transparency International has consistently pegged the Philippines at the bottom ranks of its annual corruption perception index for the past five years. This dismal rating persists despite various projects and programs launched by the government against corruption.

It is in the face of these negative developments that the seeds of NACPA, or the **National Anti-Corruption Program of Action**, were sown. While there exists many anti-corruption initiatives, these are perceived as too diffused to create any impact. Hence, a different strategy was needed.

The idea of convergence presented itself to Ombudsman Ma. Mercedes N. Gutierrez when she was still serving as the AntiCorruption Czarina in 2005. It was crystallized when the country committed to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) during the South East Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) Meeting in April 2005. The NACPA, or the National Anti-Corruption Program of Action, was thus born a year after on 17 March 2006 amid the signing of the Convergence Covenant by stakeholders from the three branches of government, constitutional commissions, business and civil society, academe and development

partners to signify their commitment to convergence as a coordinated and targeted approach against corruption.

Ombudsman Gutierrez's vision is that through the NACPA convergence process, corruption will be reduced so that Filipinos can fully enjoy the blessings of independence.

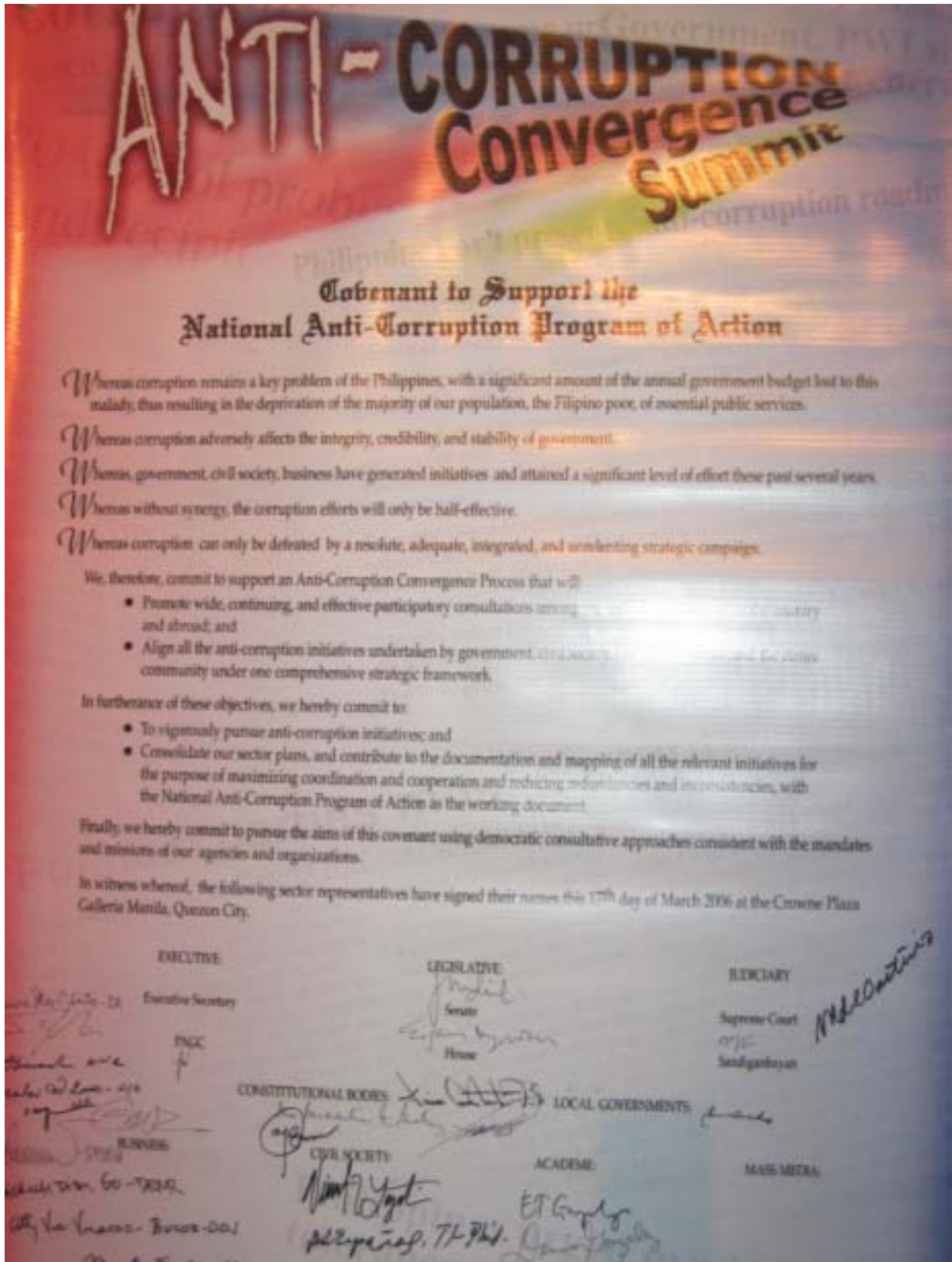
NACPA took off with initial funding support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is now sustained with funds from USAID through The Asia Foundation.

Since its launching, NACPA has established a Secretariat responsible for its administrative and technical concerns. A Sourcebook on anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by its partner-stakeholders was also developed. Members of the NACPA Secretariat completed a series of trainings to prepare them for the roll-out of various projects such as the conduct of anticorruption roadshows, formulation of a monitoring and evaluation system and design and implementation of an advocacy and communication plan.

The ratification of the UNCAC by the Senate last November 2006 is considered as NACPA's biggest milestone.

“Through the convergence process, corruption will be reduced to such an extent that will enable Filipinos to fully enjoy the blessings of independence and democracy as proclaimed in our Constitution’s preamble.”

-- Ombudsman Ma. Mercedes N. Gutierrez



Ombudsman Hymn

**The Ombudsman waves a flag to fight
corruption, graft and crimes.
We battle for all the people's rights
and justice so sublime.**

**For God, our country the Ombudsman
we're marching t'ward one aim.
A government on this lovely land
the nation will acclaim.**

**Our sword will cut corruption.
Our balance weighs your rights.
Our shield is your protection.
Our seal's the people's might.**

**Good government is our destiny
fulfilling law's command.
We wage this war 'til our victory
all hail the Ombudsman!
We wage this war 'til our victory
all hail the Ombudsman!**