



INTEGRITY WATCH

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US turns over \$1.38M proceeds of Garcia's forfeited assets

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CHECKED OFF. The collaboration between the Philippine and US governments against corruption bears fruit with the turnover of the proceeds of the forfeiture case against a former high ranking military official. In this photo, Ombudsman Morales (center) is flanked by (L-R) US Department of Homeland Security Attache Ransom Avilla, US Department of Justice Attache Donald Ashley, US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera and Deputy Ombudsman for MOLEO Cyril Ramos.

The Philippine government scores another victory in its fight against corruption as it received from the United States (US) government the second tranche of the proceeds of the forfeited assets of former Armed Forces of the Philippines Comptroller Major General Carlos Garcia.

The US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg led the delegation of US officials during the turnover of the US Treasury check in the amount of

\$1,384,940.28 to the Philippine government, represented by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

The \$1.3M check represents the net proceeds resulting from the sale of real property in Manhattan, New York (a condominium unit at The Trump Tower along Park Avenue) and the funds from two accounts maintained in Citibank, New York, which assets were traced by investigators of the US Department of Homeland Security to be part of the laundered properties of Garcia.

During the turnover ceremony held at the Office of the Ombudsman,

Ambassador Goldberg remarked that "battling public corruption is a challenge that all countries face, including the United States. Meeting that challenge is vitally important to ensure public confidence in the honesty and integrity of public servants. Since retiring from the Supreme Court to serve as the Ombudsman, Justice Morales has been tireless in the investigation and prosecution of public corruption cases. The United States is very pleased to be able to assist Ombudsman Morales and her office whenever possible."

Ombudsman kicks off 27th Anniversary with Expanded IMP Launch

The Office of the Ombudsman kicked off its 27th year as the lead anti-corruption agency with the launch of the expanded Integrity Management Program (IMP). At the start of the 27th founding anniversary celebration of the Office of the Ombudsman on May 11-13, 2015, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales opened the photo exhibit of the IMP at the lobby of the Ombudsman Building as she welcomed ten government agencies into the IMP fold. The latest additions to the IMP, namely: the Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of National Defense, Department of Transportation & Communications, Landbank of the Philippines, Philippine Ports Authority, Batangas State University and two local government units bring the total number of agencies under the IMP to 15.



GETTING THINGS DONE. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales confers with Commission on Audit Chairperson Michael Aguinaldo (left) and Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson (middle) at the site of the photo exhibit of the Integrity Management Program (IMP). An expanded IMP was unveiled during the 27th anniversary celebration of the Office of the Ombudsman.

“
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wrongdoing.” -

*Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales during
the launch of the expanded Integrity Management
Program (IMP)*

The IMP is the government's flagship anti-corruption program that aims to institutionalize integrity-building initiatives across the bureaucracy and ramp up efforts for its sustained implementation. Its framework is anchored on

international standards and practices in anti-corruption through the auspices of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Currently, five pilot agencies, namely: the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are at various stages of implementing the IMP.

US TURNS OVER \$1.38M

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In January 2012, the US government through then Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas, Jr. initially turned over to the Office of the Ombudsman \$100,000, representing cash seized by U.S. Customs authorities from the two sons of General Garcia upon their entry to California in December 2003. The seizure triggered the investigation into the transactions of General Garcia.

In her remarks, Ombudsman Morales thanked the US government for its vigilant effort in recovering the subject assets.

“This milestone in asset recovery sends the message across that raiders of public coffers can no longer hide their unexplained wealth; they cannot hide their dummy bank accounts, wherever located; and they cannot hide from the long arm of the law,” Ombudsman Morales stated.

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed criminal cases of perjury, money laundering and plunder against Garcia who eventually was convicted of perjury by the Sandiganbayan. In the last two criminal cases, Garcia pleaded to the lesser offenses of Indirect Bribery and Facilitating Money Laundering, which plea bargaining is the subject of review by the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, forfeiture proceedings are pending with the Sandiganbayan.

Danish solons visit OMB



BRIEFING. Officials of the Office of the Ombudsman led by Ombudsman Morales brief the members of the Danish delegation at the hearing room of the OMB Building.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales welcomed the delegation from the Presidium of the Danish Parliament (PDP) headed by Speaker Mogens Lykketoff and accompanied by the Ambassador of Denmark to the Philippines Jan Top Christensen during their visit to the country on March 4, 2015.

The visit followed Ambassador Christensen's courtesy call to Ombudsman Morales in November 2014 and the official reopening of the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines in January 2015.

In the meeting held at the OMB hearing room, the discussions delved into the role of the Office of the Ombudsman, economic developments in the country as well as political reforms which have made significant headway as reflected in the Philippines' rankings in global indices such as the Transparency International's



COURTESY CALL. First Deputy Speaker Bertel Haarder pays a courtesy call to Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales as Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang looks on.

Corruption Perception Index and World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index.

The PDP delegation included 1st Deputy Speaker Bertel Haarder, 2nd Deputy Speaker Pia Kjærsgaard, 3rd Deputy Speaker Lone Loklindt, 4th Deputy Speaker Per Clausen, Secretary General of the Parliament Carsten Larsen, Press Secretary Peter Krab, and Protocol Officer Dorte Andersen.

Ombudsman Morales was joined by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera, Deputy Ombudsman for Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices Cyril Ramos, Assistant Ombudsman Asryman Rafanan, and Acting Director for Public Information and Media Relations Bureau Mary Rawnsle Lopez.

Ombudsman Morales named Filipino of the Year

2 other awards recognize her zeal as anti-corruption advocate



Although she had to plod a road strewn with bumps and blocks in the fight against corruption, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales knows that the Filipino people are on her side. It is this spirited motivation that keeps her apace with the demands of the job and in no time, she had succeeded in instituting reforms in the bureaucracy and inspiring confidence from civil society.

When Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales took her oath as the 5th Ombudsman of the Republic of the Philippines in July 2011, the enormity of the challenges that she needed to take on was not lost on her.

Coming out of her retirement from the judiciary from where she served as a senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Ombudsman Morales captured the imagination

of Filipinos with her solid work ethic, unbreakable moral compass, and unparalleled sense of independence—attributes that

“the one who presented the damning bank records of Corona and whose testimony could not be dented by so a magnificent counsel as Serafin Cuevas.” - *Philippine Daily Inquirer on the significant role of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales on the impeachment of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona*

complemented the mandate of and organizational ethos in the Office of the Ombudsman. In no time, she was recognized for her unrelenting

drive against the corrupt.

In February 2015, Ombudsman Morales was hailed as **Filipino of the Year**—a recognition she shares with the Department of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and then Commission of Audit Chairperson Grace Pulido-Tan—by one of the country’s most respected media organizations, the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI).

The PDI laid emphasis on her key role in the impeachment of then Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona. It was a shining moment for the Office which Justice Morales represented, and this was validated when the PDI presented its basis for the selection of Ombudsman Morales as **Filipino of the Year**: “the one who presented the damning bank records of Corona and whose testimony could not be dented by so a magnificent defense counsel as Serafin Cuevas.”

In myriad ways, the Filipino of the Year award is a testament to the Ombudsman’s unwavering commitment to the pursuit of integrity, transparency, accountability in public service, and in more ways than one, a stunning victory as well for the Filipino people whom the Ombudsman has vowed to serve with dedication and commitment.

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PHILCONSA Award

On the heels of the **Filipino of the Year** award came the **Fearless and Peerless Crusaders Award** given to Ombudsman Morales by the Philippine Constitution Association (PHILCONSA) during the 28th anniversary and commemoration of the 1987 Philippine Constitution on February 10, 2015.

The PHILCONSA gave recognition to Ombudsman Morales for her unparalleled achievement in the fight against graft and corruption which included the indictment of a former president, three sitting senators and a host of incumbent and former congressmen and

tional (District 3830) for her zeal in the war against corruption.

The Peace Award was given to Ombudsman Morales for embodying the Rotary's ideals of peace, fellowship and world understanding in the context of her selfless service to humanity.

In her acceptance speech, Ombudsman Morales said that:

“This seemed to be bestowed each year to persons waging various wars – whether be it war against a

“**T**his seemed to be bestowed each year to persons waging various wars—whether be it war against a dictatorship, war against environmental degradation or war against poverty and other social inequities—and I vow to continue the war against corruption.”

– Ombudsman Morales on the *raison d'être* of the Peace Award given out by Rotary International

high-ranking uniformed officials. It also cited her strong sense of rectitude and judicial competence.

“All of these prove Morales' righteousness and independence of mind,” the PHILCONSA enthused.

The PHILCONSA knows from where it speaks for the numbers support the citation: with Ombudsman Morales at the helm of the anti-corruption agency, Transparency International, a non-government organization that monitors corporate and political corruption in the context of international development, reported that the country has improved in its Corruption Index ranking by 49 places—from 134th in 2010 to 85th in 2014.

ROTARY Award

In February 2015, Ombudsman Morales was bestowed the **2015 Peace Award** by the Rotary Interna-

dictatorship, war against environmental degradation or war against poverty and other social inequities – and I vow to continue the war against corruption.”

Ombudsman Morales, Rotary International's 16th awardee, joins the ranks of previous winners including the late former President Corazon Aquino (1999), former President Fidel Ramos (2000), the late Jaime Cardinal Sin (2001), Gina Lopez of ABS-CBN Foundation (2003), Fr. James Reuter (2004), Rosa Rosal of the Philippine National Red Cross (2005), Tony Meloto of Gawad Kalinga (2008) and the late DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo (2014).



INTEGRITY NEWS WATCH

Office of the Ombudsman
27th Anniversary Celebration
May 11-13, 2015



Theme: "Paigtingin ang laban sa katiwalian; paglilingkod at katapatan maaasahan mula sa Ombudsman"



OMBUDSMAN CELEBRATES 27TH

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The opening salvo was highlighted by the keynote address of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales which zeroed in on the pro-active approach taken by the Office in its fight against graft and corruption.

"Instead of just reacting after the fact of a corrupt act, the Office interdicts the intended crime even at the planning stage and aborts the commission of the wrongdoing. As part of the mandate of the Office, we give equal importance to the thrust on graft prevention because retrieval of lost public funds is a tremendous task," emphasized the Ombudsman.

Joining the celebration was Deputy Executive Secretary Ronaldo Geron of the Office of the President, the Co-Chairman of the Joint OP-OMB Program Management Committee, who recognized the shared cooperation and spirited efforts of the officials of the five pilot agencies in bringing the objectives of the program into fruition.

"Bringing integrity into daily practice is the key in fighting corruption. The IMP will enable public servants to apply the core values in concrete circumstances," noted DES Geron.

The program also saw the symbolic signing of the pledge of support of the representatives of selected agencies, development partners and civil society organizations in the implementation of the IMP.

Other top officials who attended the launch were DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson, DOJ Assistant Secretary Geronimo Sy, Commission on Audit Chairman Michael Aguineldo, BIR Assistant Commissioner James Roldan, BIR Deputy Commissioner Celia King, DENR Undersecretary Ana Liza Teh, DND Undersecretary Honorio Azcueta, DOH Assistant Secretary Pauly Jean Rosell-Ubial, United Nations Development Program Country Director Titon Mitra, and representatives from the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance, the United States Agency for International Development, Transparency International and other partners.

OMB Provident Fund marks first year with *buena mano* loan

The Office of the Ombudsman Provident Fund (OMBPF) marked its first anniversary on March 10, 2015 by offering a *buena mano* loan facility to its members.

OMB Resolution No. 51, Series of 2013 authorized the establishment of the Provident Fund for the officials and employees of the Office of the Ombudsman to promote their economic well-being and general welfare. The OMBPF also serves as a savings and

loan credit facility for its members.

The OMBPF commenced its operations last year upon the election of the regular members of the Board of Trustees.

Membership in the Fund covers all incumbent Ombudsman officials and employees whether in permanent, co-terminus or temporary positions unless the employee signifies the intention not to join.

The employee contributes to the Fund a portion of his/her monthly salary—ranging from P100 to P1,000 per month—through payroll deduction. On the other hand, OMB contributes at least P1,000 per month per employee upon the approval of the Board and the Ombudsman.

Members can apply for a P15,000 *buena mano* loan payable in ten months.

Ombudsman holds Multi-Sectoral Integrity Forum in Davao City



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales addresses the participants of the Multi-Sectoral Integrity Forum on May 8, 2015 at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City.

In her keynote speech, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales stated that the forum was held with the view of bringing together “friends and partners from various sectors of society who are involved in the fight against corruption, in order to open the lines of communication or avenues for cooperation.”

Providing context to the plague of corruption, the Ombudsman stressed that “each story of government irregularity is neither isolated nor peculiar; it is part of a bigger picture that we ought to reconfigure by sending a warning of deterrence to all public servants.”

“If we can send the message across that this Office is using all its might under the Constitution to send former Presidents to jail, or dismiss presidential appointees from service, or expose and recover unexplained wealth—whether denominated in pesos or dollars, then

we are making a dent in the public mindset that the government is serious in doing its job,” she added.

“Only then can we make a difference in the people’s outlook in government services. For we are not just solving cases, we are solving a deeply-ingrained problem in government service,” she continued.

Among those who participated in the forum were representatives from the Philippine National Police, City Government of Davao, Mindanao Development Authority, Mindanao Business Council, Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mindanao Times, and DXFE Broadcasting Network.

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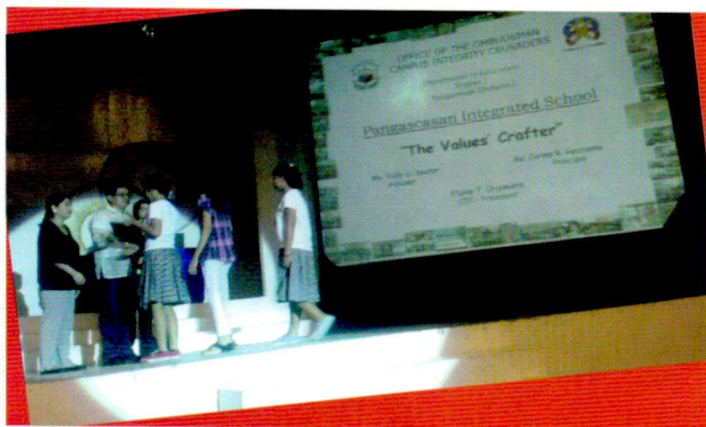
OMB-Luzon fetes outstanding CICs

On June 30, 2015, the Robert R. Estrella, Sr. Memorial Stadium in Rosales, Pangasinan played host to at least 300 participants in the Campus Integrity Crusaders (CIC) recognition rites spear-headed by the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

The event brought together school heads, advisers and student leaders of the 53 accredited schools representing two divisions of the Department of Education in the Province of Pangasinan.

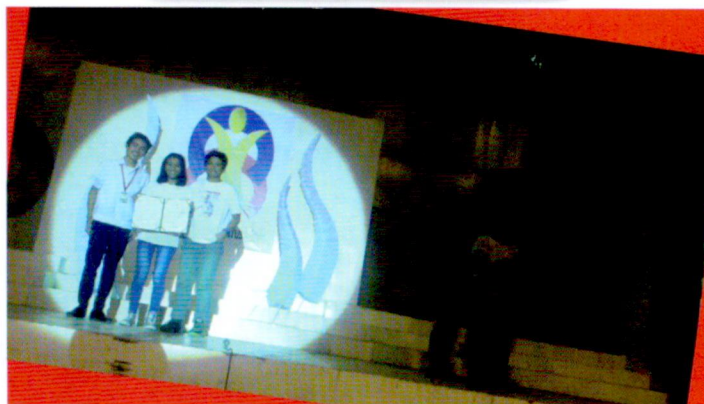
In his keynote address, Director Joaquin Salazar of the Evaluation and Investigation Bureau-A of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon exhorted the awardees to remain vigilant and to be true to their commitment to be paragons of honesty. He impressed upon the awardees that the adage '*the youth is the hope of the future*' is not an empty rhetoric but rather one that is impressed with lofty aspirations.

The CIC program sets the stage for a new breed of leaders—one imbued with integrity and honesty.



NURTURING VALUES. The officers of *The Values Crafter* of Pangasinan Integrated School (Sual, Pangasinan) receive their award of merit from Atty. Joaquin Salazar, Director for Evaluation and Investigation Bureau A of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, assisted by OIC PACPO OMB-Luzon, Atty. Raquel Rosario Marayag.

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BADGE OF HONOR. Student leaders of San Jacinto National High School's *Timbulan ng Mag-aaral* proudly show their award of recognition. These students, alongside other awardees, were recognized for their school-based projects that promote and instill integrity by way of values seminars, essay writing contests and the like.

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MARY RAWNSLE V. LOPEZ
Editor-in-Chief

JERRY BENEDICT C. ROSETE
Writer/Digital Artist

MYRA I. VALDEZ
Writer

MARY ANN L. HULAR
Research/Circulation

MARIA CORAZON NARAJA
CHARINA SANZ
Contributors

JESSIE SUGUITAN
Photographer

ADVISERS
Ombudsman CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES
Assistant Ombudsman ASRYMAN T. RAFANAN
Assistant Ombudsman JENNIFER J. MANALILI

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
MEDIA RELATIONS BUREAU (PIMRB)

479-7300 local 2122, 426-7750
Ombudsman Building, Agham Road,
Diliman, 1101, Quezon City

Facebook & Twitter accounts: OmbudsmanPH

Corruption prevention efforts in the Visayas in full swing



GEARING UP. Deputy Ombudsman for Visayas Paul Elmer Clemente discusses a wide breadth of strategies in maintaining integrity in public service at the Ethical Standards and Public Accountability Family Conference in Camp Lapu Lapu, Cebu City.



TAPPING INTO. Acting Director Philip Camiguing of the Ombudsman Regional Office No. VI makes a strong case for honest leadership during the ITAPS seminar conducted for the local government unit of Jordan, Guimaras.

A total of 648 public officials and employees participated in various Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the Public Service (ITAPS) Seminars in the Visayas from January to June this year.

Deputy Ombudsman Paul Elmer Clemente shared his thoughts on ethics and accountability in public service as well as on the anti-corruption efforts of the Office by way of various trainings and seminars organized by government offices and private groups in the Visayas.

In Cebu, the Office conducted the ITAPS Seminar for 150 barangay officials in Cebu City and 25 employees of the Bureau of Immigration at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport in Lapu-Lapu City. A total of 222 new police recruits in Cebu also underwent ITAPS training.

The Ombudsman Regional Office No. VI in Iloilo also conducted the seminar for 164 medical personnel and office staff of the West Visayas Medical Center, 46 junior officers of

the Philippine Coast Guard manning various service stations all over the country, and 41 elected officials in the Municipality of Jordan, Guimaras.

ITAPS aims to enhance the participants' understanding of the role and accountability of public servants. In the Visayas, the ITAPS seminars left participants with a renewed sense of commitment to their work as civil servants. Participants came away with a sense of purpose with positive comments ranging from "true advocacy of good governance" to "the topics are interesting", and "hoping and praying for more seminars". Further, they also drew interesting insights from the seminars, such as: "I will continue to be honest", "I will stop accepting gift or 'pang snacks' from clients/bidders", "I will stop bringing office supplies home", "I will start punching my own bundy card".

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OMBUDSMAN HOLDS MULTI-SECTORAL
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In line with its efforts to improve public assistance, Ombudsman Morales revealed that two specialized designations—the Environmental Ombudsman and the Investment Ombudsman—have been revitalized.

The Environmental Team headed by Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera, is primarily tasked to ensure the proper implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, and handle complaints against public officers and employees for violation of environmental laws. With respect to the Solid Waste Management Compliance Program, the Office has partnered with environmental groups and civil society to monitor the compliance of local government units.

On the other hand, the Investment Ombudsman—headed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang—is tasked to help spur the influx of investments in the country and strengthen global competitiveness through prompt speedy and responsive action on investor-related grievances and complaints.

Overall, the forum was able to drive home the message that the sustained drive against corruption will benefit the entire nation.

“The spirit of good governance and integrity will triumph over the forces that sow social inequities and economic disparities.”

#ManindiganKontraKatiwalian

CORRUPTION PREVENTION EFFORTS
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Meanwhile, Deputy Ombudsman Clemente spoke before servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Philippines 53rd Engineer Brigade at the Ethical Standards and Public Accountability Seminar at Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City, in January this year. On another occasion, he discussed trends and cases relating to the accountability of public officers during the assembly of the Philippine League of Local Budget Officers. DO Clemente also spoke to police officers during the closing ceremony of PNP's Investigation Officer Basic Course in Cebu City.

The other seminars and trainings conducted by the Ombudsman-Visayas Office included the Anti-Fixing Seminar for 35 DENR employees in Cebu, Public Accountability Seminar for 1,183 barangay officials, provincial and municipal accountants of the Province of Negros Occidental, and the Youth Forum participated in by 33 students from the West Visayas State University.

3 Ombudsman staff pass bar exams

Three employees of the Office of the Ombudsman passed the 2014 bar exams administered by the Supreme Court of the Philippines. The three new lawyers are Atty. Karen Batu (Graft Prevention and Control Officer V) of the Bureau of Resident Ombudsman, Atty. Alfredo Bentulan, Jr. (Associate Graft Investigation Officer II) of the Public Assistance Bureau, and Atty. Wynchill Benaïd (Associate Graft Investigation Officer II) of the General Administration Office.



Atty. Karen Batu



Atty. Alfredo Bentulan, Jr.



Atty. Wynchill Benaïd