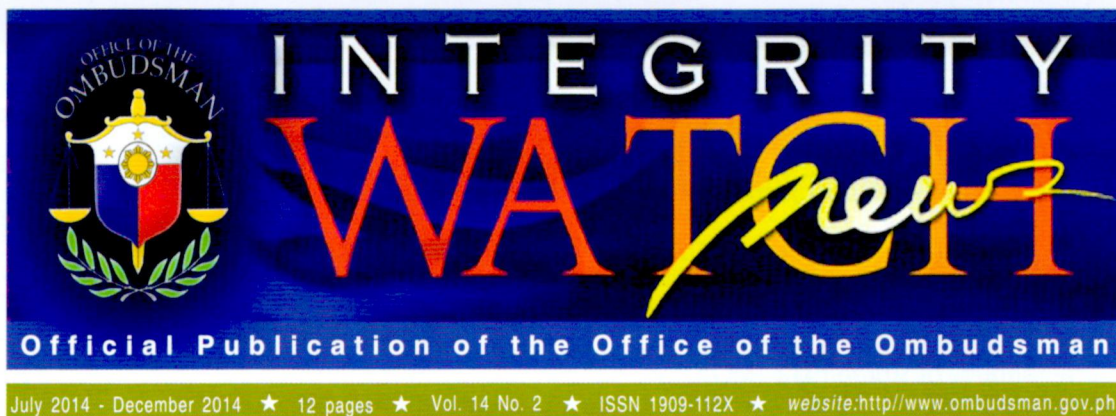


COFFEE TABLE BOOK page 5



July 2014 - December 2014 ★ 12 pages ★ Vol. 14 No. 2 ★ ISSN 1909-112X ★ website: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.ph>

Clemente is new DO for Visayas

President Benigno Aquino III appointed Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente as the new Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas.

Atty. Clemente first joined the Office of the Ombudsman in 1995 as Graft Investigation Officer I in the Office of the Chief Legal Counsel (OCLC, now Office of Legal Affairs). He served as OCLC Director and Acting Assistant Ombudsman until his resignation in 2006.

In 2012, he rejoined the Office and was appointed as Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II assigned at

CLEMENTE page 3

Top officials attend 2nd State Conference on UNCAC

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales joined the heads of the different branches of government during the 2nd State Conference on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Implementation and Review on 02 December 2014 at Malacañan Palace.

UNCAC page 8

1st batch of PDAF complaints resolved

Ombudsman indicts 5 more solons

In October 2014, the Office of the Ombudsman completed the preliminary investigation of the first batch of complaints filed by the Field Investigation Office (FIO) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) involving the irregular diversion of Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to alleged "dummy" non-government organizations (NGOs) for "ghost" projects.

Three Senators, five Representatives and several others have been charged with criminal indictments ranging from Plunder, violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) to Malversation of Public Funds.

By three separate Joint Orders all dated June 4, 2014, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio

Morales affirmed the finding of probable cause against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr., Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, Janet Napoles and co-respondents in the "pork barrel scam" cases. The criminal proceedings against Enrile, Revilla, Estrada, et. al. are on going at the Sandiganbayan.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales also found probable cause to indict former Representatives Rizalina Seachon-Lanete (Masbate), Samuel Dangwa (Benguet), Rodolfo Plaza (Agusan Del Sur), Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro) and Edgar Valdez of the party-list Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (APEC) for misusing their respective PDAF.

Rep. Seachon-Lanete, et al.

Former Representative, now Masbate Governor, Seachon-Lanete, Lanete's Chief of Staff Jose Sumalpong, Napoles and De Asis were charged with Plunder in connection with the anomalous utilization of Rep. Lanete's ₱112.29 million PDAF from 2007 to 2009.

Moreover, Rep. Lanete, Sumalpong, Napoles, Relampagos, and several others face multiple counts of violation of Section 3(e) of RA No. 3019.

Lanete's PDAF from 2007 to 2009 were issued by the DBM through 11 Special Allotment Release Orders (SAROs) and facilitated through the TRC, NLDC and NABCOR as Implementing Agencies (IAs) and

PDAF page 9



President Benigno Aquino III poses with Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. and other top government officials during the 2nd State Conference on UNCAC on December 2, 2014 held at Malacañan Palace.

Ombudsman, AFP ink MOA to fight graft

To reinforce institutional synergy in fast-tracking case disposition, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on November 14, 2014 in simple ceremonies at the Ombudsman Building.

Under the MOA, the Office of the Ombudsman retains exclusive jurisdiction over criminal and administrative cases involving graft and corruption, plunder, violations of Republic Act (RA) No. 1379 (An Act Declaring Forfeiture in Favor of the State Any Property Found to Have Been Unlawfully Acquired), R.A. No. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act), R.A. No. 9485 (Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007), and crimes punishable under Titles II, IV and VII of the Revised Penal Code.

Meanwhile, the AFP retains exclusive jurisdiction over offenses identified under the Articles of War, complaints involving salaries, benefits, remuneration, promotion of military personnel, including violations of the economic provisions of R.A. No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Children).

The MOA also provides for the conduct of joint fact-finding investigation on a case-to-case basis as well as training and education programs.

In her message during the signing ceremonies, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio

Morales expressed hope that “the implementation of this MOA would bring about better women and men in uniform” as she “looks forward to working with the AFP in deepening the sense of integrity, accountability and transparency in the military service.”

In his message of solidarity, AFP Chief of Staff Gregorio Pio Catapang, Jr. stated that it is “imperative for us to join hands in order to move forward and prevent misdeeds that taint the honorable path of public service.”

Deputy Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO) Cyril Ramos, and Lt. Gen. John Bonafos, AFP Vice Chief of Staff and chief of the AFP Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability (OESPA), witnessed the MOA signing.

The MOA took effect on 01 December 2014.

For the past three years, the Office has managed to forge MOAs with national government agencies such as the Department of Justice in March 2012, the Commission on Audit in April 2012, the Philippine National Police/National Police Commission in September 2012, the Office of the President in June 2013, and the Governance Commission for GOCCs in June 2013. (PIMRB)

Fewer are giving bribes — survey

Fewer Filipino families give bribes or “grease money” to government officials. Bribes are usually solicited by corrupt government officials rather than initiated by the giver.

These are among the salient findings of the *2013 National Household Survey on Experience with Corruption in the Philippines*. The survey, commissioned by the Office of the Ombudsman, was a rider to the 2013 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The survey measured respondents’ actual experiences in small-scale corruption, particularly in bribery or facilitation money. It also identified the public services vulnerable to corruption and whether the bribes were solicited by the receiver (demand-driven) or initiated by the giver (supply-driven).

The survey has 10,864 respondent-families which represent 21.9 million families nationwide.

The survey revealed that one out of 20 families (5%) that had at least one transaction with a government office claimed to have been asked for bribe or grease money. The same number of families gave bribes when asked by a government official or employee. These data reveal a decline from the 2010 survey, in which about two out of 20 (10%) families admitted to giving bribes.

More Poor Families Give Bribes

Poor families do not only pay a higher price for corruption because of the basic services denied them due to government funds lost to corruption. The 2013 survey also showed that incidence of bribe initiation is practiced more by families seeking basic social services compared to families transacting other services such as securing registry documents and licenses, accessing justice, and paying taxes and duties.



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and AFP Chief of Staff Gregorio Pio Catapang, Jr. pose with top-ranking OMB and AFP officials after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on November 14, 2014.

Ombudsman inks MOA with SM for clearance application services

In its bid to provide accessible and quality frontline services, the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SM Mart, Inc., making its Ombudsman clearance application services available in SM business service centers nationwide.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and SM President Consuelo Monasterio signed the MOA on 25 July 2014 at the SM North EDSA Activity Center.

SM currently operates a chain of nationwide business service centers and bills payment collection counters which can serve as alternate receiving and payment counters to augment OMB's central and area offices at no cost to the government.

Under this facility, SM accepts applications and payments for Ombudsman clearance, both for walk-in and online applicants through its SM participating business centers.

An Ombudsman Clearance is an official document certifying that a person

has no criminal, administrative or forfeiture case pending with the Office of the Ombudsman. If there appears to be such pending case against the applicant, the Office shall instead issue a certification of pending case/s.

Clearance applications may still be filed with the Ombudsman offices in Quezon City, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, in addition to online applications that may be lodged at www.ombudsman.gov.ph. (PIMRB)



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and SM President Consuelo Monasterio shake hands after forging an agreement for clearance application services, as witnessed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang and SM Mart, Inc. officials.



Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II Paul Elmer Clemente takes his oath as the new Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas before Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales on November 6, 2014.

CLEMENTE *from page 1*

the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

He obtained his Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science in Economics degrees from the University of the Philippines.

Clemente succeeded Deputy Ombudsman Pelagio Apostol who ended his term in August 2014.

He formally took his oath of office before Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales on 06 November 2014. (PIMRB)

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Ateneo honors Ombudsman Morales

The Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) conferred upon Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales the Government Service Award during the 2014 Special Academic Convocation held at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater in the AdMU Loyola Heights campus on September 16, 2014.

Ombudsman Morales was one of the six 2014 recipients of Ateneo's traditional university awards for excellence in service to their communities in line with Ateneo's vision on nation-building.

The award recognizes her for "devoting more than forty years of her life to working in government where she continues to serve and deliver justice with integrity and courage."

"Her devotion to integrity in government service began in 1971 when she joined the Department of Justice. This commitment became more evident throughout her long career in the judiciary, which was capped by nine years as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court where she

further demonstrated her sound judgment and dedication to government reform. In the years she has been the fifth Ombudsman of the Philippines, Justice Morales has shown an unwavering determination and perseverance in investigating and prosecuting corruption and abuses in government—critical in developing a government that is competent, transparent, and accountable," the AdMU website reads.

Apart from medallion and plaque, the awardees were given a replica of the Sacred Heart statuette originally carved in wood by Ateneo's most famous alumnus, Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

Ombudsman Morales is the ninth recipient of the Government Service Award since 2001. Previous awardees include Jesse Robredo, Lilia De Lima, Benjamin Caling, Raymundo Punongbayan, Haydee Yorac, Ester Garcia, Emilia Boncodin and Tomas Africa. (PIMRB)



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales receives the Government Service Award from Ateneo de Manila University President Jose Ramon Villarin, SJ during the 2014 Special Academic Convocation on September 16, 2014.

Ombudsman holds gift giving and blood-letting activities

Some 125 patients of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) were beneficiaries of gifts distributed by the Office of the Ombudsman during the gift giving and bloodletting program held at the PCMC on December 18, 2014 under the theme, "*Paskong Sama-Sama Tungo sa Bagong Taong Nagkakaisa.*"

Gifts included food packs, educational materials, toiletries and toys.

Earlier in the morning, a bloodletting activity was facilitated at the Public Assistance Bureau Conference Room with the assistance of the PCMC Blood Bank's medical staff.

The gift giving program in the afternoon was graced by officials from OMB-MOLEO and PCMC.

"We give you these gifts today, knowing that you can and will be a gift to others too," stated Deputy Ombudsman for MOLEO Cyril Ramos in his Christmas message.

"*Alam nating hindi tayo nag-iisa dito sa PCMC. 'Andyan ang kapitbahay nating Office of the Ombudsman kung saan ang mga empleyado niya ay nagbigay ng hindi lamang pamasko para sa lahat ng pasyente nating mga bata kundi pati pagdaloy ng dugo,*" added PCMC Executive Director Julius Lecciones.

"Makibata"

The gift giving and bloodletting at PCMC coincided with the 2014 *Makibata* Gift Giving where the Office of the Ombudsman gave toys and toiletries to about 200 children-beneficiaries in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Project 6, Quezon City under Assistant Parish Priest Marvin Pajarillaga. The children were also treated with food and dance numbers from Jollibee.

Now on its 15th year, the *Makibata* started as a mutual endeavor of the OMB and the Junior Graftwatch Units consisting of students from different high schools, through the coordination of the Community Coordination Bureau.

The 2014 event had the unwavering support of the OMB officials and employees, with Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera as guest speaker. (PIMRB)

Ombudsman launches 25th Anniversary coffee table book

The Office of the Ombudsman launched its coffee table book entitled “Ombudsman @25: Empowering the Nation in its Unrelenting Pursuit of Good Governance” on December 17, 2014.

The coffee table book was designed “to fill in that certain literary void that longs for an official account of the Office’s institutional history from the birth pains in the late 1980s, the nascent years in the 1990s, the growing years in the 2000s, to its debut as a mature institution seasoned by the times.”

As the first official publication on the historical milestones of the Office, the coffee table book encapsulates the string of gains that the Office has achieved under the stewardship of its previous and present leaders.

In his message of support, President Benigno Simeon Aquino III stated that “as the office mandated to uphold accountability in government, you serve at the frontlines of our anti-corruption agenda, and have been instrumental in leading us into this era of national renewal.”

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales stated that “the Office continues to stand



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales with (from left) Deputy Ombudsman (DO) for MOLEO Cyril Ramos, DO for Luzon Gerard Mosquera, DO for Mindanao Rodolfo Elman, and DO for Visayas Paul Elmer Clemente during the unveiling ceremonies on December 17, 2014.

up to the gargantuan challenge of ridding the bureaucracy of the remnants of corruption through punitive, preventive and promotional measures.”

The Office of the Ombudsman celebrated its silver anniversary in May

2013 and completed a yearlong set of activities that ended in 2014.

Copies of the book were given to Ombudsman officials, silver jubilarian employees, and integrity partners. (PIMRB)



Grade 2 pupils of Doña Josefa E. Marcos Elementary School of Quezon City enjoy their group activity as they form two words, “Matapat” and “Huwaran”, from the jumbled letters given to them during the integration of good values of GCPE TE in Araling Panlipunan on October 28, 2014.

Good values taught to 1,622 students in NCR

From July to December 2014, a total of 1,622 students from public elementary and secondary schools of the Department of Education-National Capital Region (DepEd-NCR) completed the enhanced modules of the Graft and Corruption Prevention Education Teaching Exemplars (GCPE TE) harmonized with the teaching methodologies of DepEd’s K+12 program. The GCPE TE modules focus on building honesty, integrity and competence for the students to become responsible and upright citizens and leaders.

The conduct of teaching of the thirty-eight (38) modules of the GCPE TE by the 38 teachers from the different divisions of DepEd-NCR was witnessed by

GOOD VALUES page 8

2014 Christmas Activities

Children's Hour with the Ombudsman



Bazaar

Makibata Gift Giving



Office of the Ombudsman

2014 MAKIBATA Gift Giving

*Araw ng Pagbibigay
at Pakikipagkaywa*

Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Proj. 6, Quezon City
December 18, 2014

Bloodletting



UNCAC *from page 1*

President Benigno Aquino III delivered the keynote address in the Conference attended by Senate President Franklin Drilon, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr., Commission on Audit Chairperson Ma. Gracia Pulido-Tan, Civil Service Commission Chairman Francisco Duque III, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Amparo Cabotaje-Tang, Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares, other senior officials in government, and representatives from development partners, private sector, academe, media and civil society organizations.

In her message of support, Ombudsman Morales described the Conference as “an annual mechanism to draw consensus and effect validation of the country’s compliance with its obligations under

the UNCAC.”

“The added value of adopting the UNCAC as an anticorruption framework is the realization that all sectors of society must work together to combat corruption under the overarching maxim that fighting corruption is one of the finest expressions of patriotism,” she underscored.

Chief Justice Sereno, in her message of support, cited the judiciary’s efforts in institutionalizing reforms and weeding out corrupt officials and personnel in the judiciary.

In their respective messages of support, Senate President Drilon and House Speaker Belmonte enumerated the various pending bills in Congress aimed at strengthening the fight against corruption.

In his keynote address, President Aquino highlighted the good governance policies and reforms under his administration, and announced that he has recently signed an Executive Order institutionalizing the Integrity Management Program

(IMP) in the various government agencies.

Jointly spearheaded by the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the President, the IMP is envisioned as the primary national corruption prevention framework of the government.

“We are working to rid the Philippines of the corruption that has tainted its reputation and plagued it for so long; we are working to institutionalize a legacy that finds its roots in the mindset of our countrymen who will never again settle for anything less than true public service,” President Aquino stated.

On October 31, 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UNCAC as an international legal instrument against corruption, and designated December 9 of every year as International Anti-Corruption Day. The Philippine Senate ratified the UNCAC on November 6, 2006.

Enacted on May 27, 2013, Republic Act No. 10589 declares the observance of December every year as “Anti-Corruption Month” in the entire country. (PIMRB)



President Benigno Aquino III poses with Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, Jr., Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, Justice Secretary Leila De Lima, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr. and other key officials of the Office of the Ombudsman during the 2nd State Conference on UNCAC on December 2, 2014.

GOOD VALUES *from page 5*

Ombudsman representatives, DepEd-NCR Division Supervisors, School Principals and other teachers acting as evaluators.

In April 2014, the Office of the Ombudsman facilitated a Focus Group

Discussion participated in by public elementary and secondary teachers of DepEd-NCR to revisit the modules of the GCPE TE in preparation for the implementation of DepEd’s K+12 program. The Office through the Community Coordination Bureau is coordinating with DepEd for the formal revision of all the modules of

the GCPE TE to align with the K+12 program.

DepEd Memorandum Circular No. 237, series of 2007, ordered the integration of the modules of GCPE TE in the Makabayan and other subjects in public elementary and secondary levels. (CCB)

PDAF *from page 1*

released to the CARED, MAMFI, PSDFI and SDPFFI.

During her term as Congressman, Lanete continuously endorsed the implementation of her PDAF-funded livelihood and agricultural projects to questionable NGOs associated with or controlled by Napoles.

The ₱112.29 million PDAF was anomalously used for livelihood projects, financial assistance to farmers, farm inputs and farm implements, skills training and distribution of livelihood kits in nail care, wellness, massage and candle-making. Several Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) were entered into among Lanete, TRC, NABCOR and the NGO-partners.

Field investigation conducted by Ombudsman investigators revealed that the ₱112.29 million PDAF was never used for the intended agricultural and livelihood projects as the documents submitted such as Disbursement Vouchers, Progress and Accomplishment Reports, Fund Utilization, Inspection and Delivery Reports, and Certificates of Acceptance were all fabricated.

Rep. Plaza, et al.

Former Representative Plaza faces indictment for five counts of Malversation and five counts of violation of Section 3(e) of R.A. No. 3019. Included as co-accused in multiple counts of Malversation and violations of Section 3(e) of R.A. No. 3019 are Plaza's Chief of Staff Jasper Kapunan, Napoles, Relampagos, Nuñez, Paule, Bare and 21 others.

Plaza also faces two counts of Direct Bribery, while Napoles was also charged with two counts of Corruption of Public Officials.

The PDAF of Rep. Plaza for the years 2008 and 2009 amounting to ₱27.5 million covered by five SAROs engaged NABCOR and NLDC as IAs with MAMFI and SDPFFI as NGO-partners in supposedly implementing projects like agricultural production packages, livelihood packages, training, livelihood kits for food processing, hair dressing and reflexology.

Upon field verification, the FIO determined that the livelihood and agricultural production kits and packages never reached the intended beneficiaries, for either there were no projects or the goods were never delivered completely.

Rep. Dangwa, et al.

Facing indictments for Malversation and six counts of violation of Section 3(e) of R.A. 3019 are Representative Dangwa, Dangwa's Chiefs of Staff Erwin Dangwa and Carlos Lozada, Napoles, Relampagos, Nuñez, Bare and Paule.

Likewise indicted for Malversation and violation of Section 3(e) of R.A. No. 3019 are Ortiz, Cunanan, Jover, Noel Macha and several others.

Rep. Dangwa also faces five counts of Direct Bribery, while Napoles also faces five counts of Corruption of Public Officials.

From 2001 to 2010 Rep. Dangwa received ₱54 million as PDAF released by the DBM through seven SAROs coursed through SDPFFI, CARED, POPDFI, with TRC, NLDC, and NABCOR as IAs.

Dangwa's PDAF was anomalously used for financial assistance, grants, livelihood projects for jewelry making, aromatic candle making, wellness and massage, farm inputs/implements and other livelihood packages.

Out of the ₱44 million funds released and transferred to the IAs and the Napoles NGOs, ₱11 million remain unliquidated by the TRC and CARED.

Similar to the cases of Lanete and Plaza, Dangwa's PDAF was never used for the intended projects as shown by dubious and fabricated documents.

Rep. Jaraula, et al.

Charges for three counts of Malversation and three counts of violation of Section 3(e) of R.A. No. 3019 were slapped on former Representative Jaraula, Napoles, Relampagos, Ortiz, Cunanan and several others.

Jaraula was also indicted for three counts of Direct Bribery, while Napoles faces three counts of Corruption of Public Officials.

The Office found that Jaraula used his ₱50.5 million PDAF from 2004 to 2007 supposedly for financial assistance, technical assistance through video courses and printed materials, with TRC as IA and CARED as NGO-partner.

Luy stated that he recorded the rebates and commissions received by Jaraula amounting to ₱20.8 million, adding that there were occasions when he personally delivered the rebates to Jaraula.

The FIO submitted an Affidavit of Non-Operation dated 20 April 2007 executed by then CARED President Encarnacion stating that CARED had not conducted any business activity from the date of incorporation until 2007.

The COA special audit findings disclosed that the projects were "ghost" projects as they were never implemented in the lone district of Cagayan De Oro.

Rep. Valdez, et al.

A plunder charge was filed against Representative Valdez of APEC, Napoles, and De Asis in relation to the misuse of PDAF amounting to ₱95 million from 2007 to 2009.

The ₱95 million PDAF was released through 16 SAROs coursed through NABCOR, ZREC, NLDC and TRC as IAs, using SDPFFI, MAMFI and PSDFI as NGO-partners.

It was found that during the term of Valdez, he continuously endorsed the implementation of his PDAF-funded livelihood and agricultural products to Napoles-controlled NGOs. From 2007 to 2009, MAMFI received ₱15 million while PSDFI received ₱18.9 million, and SDPFFI received ₱46 million. The funds were supposed to be used for livelihood projects, farm inputs and farm implements, agricultural starter kits, technology transfer training via video courses and printed materials, vegetable seeds, gardening packages, knapsack sprayers, concentrated fertilizers and other tools and equipment.

It stated that the PDAF of Valdez was never used for the intended projects as these were considered "ghost" projects, with fabricated documents submitted for its liquidation. The mayors and municipal agriculturists reported that they never received anything from the office of Valdez, or from any of the project partners. In fact, many of the names appearing on the list as farmer-recipients were neither residents nor registered voters of the municipalities. (PIMRB)

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Environmental Ombudsman cites initiatives in Cebu City

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales met with some 200 stakeholders from both private and public sectors in the Visayas during the Multi-Sectoral Integrity Conference at the Cebu City Sports Club on November 27, 2014.

During the conference, the Local Government Unit Environmental Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Self-Assessment Reports were turned over by National Solid Waste Management Commission head Engr. Eligio Idefonso to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Paul Elmer Clemente briefed the audience about the ESWM Compliance Program which was designed to hold accountable the government officials and employees charged with the implementation of the solid waste management law and to educate the public of the dire need for its implementation.

The Ombudsman handed special citations for innovative approaches in community mobilizing for ecological solid waste management to the Municipality of San Francisco, Camotes Island and lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr.

The island-municipality of San Francisco was cited for registering zero casualty when super typhoon Yolanda ravaged several areas in the Visayas in the latter part of 2013. This was attributed to the town's efficient *purok* system introduced by Mayor Alfredo Arquillano, Jr.

The Ombudsman also recognized Oposa for his inputs in the Environmental Solid Waste Management Compliance Program. Oposa, who introduced initiatives to protect the environment in Bantayan,



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales addresses stakeholders in the Visayas coming from the academe, local government units, national government agencies, judiciary, private sector and the media during the Multi-Sectoral Integrity Conference in Cebu City on November 27, 2014 at the Cebu City Sports Club.

Cebu, is a world-renowned environmentalist who suggested that a team of anti-graft investigators take advantage of the power of the Ombudsman's letterhead in ensuring that national government agencies and local government units would implement and enforce environmental laws. Lawyer Sonia Mendoza, chairperson of the Mother Earth Foundation, received the award in behalf of Oposa.

In the same conference, Ombudsman Morales spearheaded the launching of the Environmental Ombudsman Layman's Handbook which was written in different regional languages of the country including Cebuano.

Under its mandate, the Environmental Ombudsman Team headed by Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera, shall handle complaints filed against any public official, employee, office or agency mandated to protect the environment and

conserve natural resources where the act complained of appears to be illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient. The Team also acts on any malfeasance, misfeasance or non-feasance committed by any public officer or employee, including conspiring private individuals, if said act or omission involves any violation of environmental laws or concerns or relates to environmental protection or conservation.

During the conference, Ombudsman Morales highlighted the accomplishments of the Office under her leadership. She stressed the need to create a culture of integrity and excellence in the country and, ultimately, to build a nation that totally rejects the tentacles of corruption. She also emphasized that part of the Office's mandate is to remind public officials of their duty to implement laws protecting the environment. (OMB-Visayas)

SURVEY *from page 2*

One out of 20 families or 4.5 percent of families admitted giving bribes to avail of social services. This is slightly higher than the 4.1 percent reported in 2010. The social services listed in the survey include education, health care, social security, employment, livelihood and subsidies.

The survey noted that families who avail of these types of government social ser-

vices usually belong to the lower income stratum. The report also surmised that bribes were given by lower income families to get an assurance that they will receive the services they need.

On the other hand, there was a decrease in the number of families that gave "grease money" to avail of other government services—from 6.1% in 2010 to 0.5% in 2013 for payment of taxes and duties; from 9.9% to 2.3% for access to justice; and

from 10.3% to 2.1% for securing registry documents and licenses.

According to the Office of the Ombudsman, the 2013 survey is consistent with the results of the 2013 Global Corruption Barometer of Transparency International, which noted a decrease in the bribe incidence in the Philippines from 16% in 2010 to 12% in 2013.

The report attributes the lower

NEXT *page*

Investment Ombudsman Team holds dialogue with Cebu investors

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales discussed the concept of Investment Ombudsman before members of Cebu's business community during the Investment Ombudsman Dialogue at the Casino Español in Cebu City last November 28, 2014.

True to its mandate as protector of the people, the Office of the Ombudsman created the Investment Ombudsman Team to act on complaints and grievances raised by businessmen concerning delays and red tape, among others, in their transactions with government agencies.

The Investment Ombudsman team, headed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang as the Investment Ombudsman, was created to assist in attaining the national goal of inclusive growth and poverty reduction, encourage local and foreign investments in the country and improve global competitiveness, as well as to expedite the resolution of investor-related issues and concerns through prompt action on investors' grievances and speedy resolution of their complaints.

During the gathering of over 100 participants, Ombudsman Morales urged



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales with Ombudsman officials and OMB-Visayas employees during the Investment Ombudsman Dialogue in Cebu City on November 28, 2014 at Casino Español, Cebu City.

members of Cebu's business community to support the Office's initiative in improving the investment climate in the country. She stressed that efficient and effective delivery of government services promotes a stable socio-economic environment that attracts domestic and foreign investments.

During the dialogue, Atty. Alfred Yann Oguis, Officer-in-Charge of the Field Investigation Unit of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Visayas, reported that since the implementation of the program in July 2014, they have received eight investment-related complaints which pertained mostly to delayed government action. (OMB-Visayas)

SURVEY *from page 10*

incidence of bribes to growing public intolerance towards corruption, as the citizenry is becoming more conscious of the ill-effects of corruption on individuals, especially the poor, and on the entire Philippine society.

Demand or supply?

According to the survey, more families that gave bribes for government services did so at the behest of government officials, hence, fewer families initiated the illegal practice.

More families accessing the justice system gave in to solicited bribery, indicating that law enforcers, public defenders, and court officials may exert more influence on families to submit to the practice. The fact that officials tasked to protect individuals from injustice are among the perpetrators of corruption invites serious concern.

Officials from government agencies involved in processing registry documents and licenses are more likely to solicit bribes compared to those offering other types of services. Registry documents include civil registry and property registration, while permits, clearances and licenses include mayor's permits, building permits, sanitary permits, and driver's licenses.

Compared to the 2010 survey, the proportion of families that gave bribes or "grease money" upon solicitation increased in all four types of services in 2013. The highest increases were among families accessing justice followed by those securing registry documents and licenses.

A notable observation by the Office of the Ombudsman is the seeming shift in the bribery practice—from supply-driven to demand-driven. In 2010, bribery was initiated by the givers (3 out of 4

families), while in 2013, government officials solicited bribes (7 out of 10).

The decline in the number of families willing to offer bribes may have emboldened corrupt officials to ask for "grease money."

Reporting Corrupt Officials

The 2010 survey revealed that only 0.8% of families that gave in to solicited bribes reported the crime to proper authorities. In the 2013 survey, the figure increased to 5.3 percent, including both families that gave in and did not give in to bribe solicitation.

Several reasons were cited for non-reporting of solicited bribes. The top reason was because the respondent believed the incident was not worth reporting or the amount was too small to bother with (59%). Other reasons were fear of reprisal (24%) and the lack of time to report (21%). (Atty. Alan Cañares)

1st CIC Congress in NCR

Students join crusade to uphold integrity

In line with the observance of Anti-Corruption Month, the Office of the Ombudsman conducted the 1st Campus Integrity Crusaders (CIC) Congress for the National Capital Region (NCR) on December 10, 2014 at the Philippine Science High School Gymnasium in Quezon City.

The CIC Congress convened 174 school-based organizations accredited as CICs in the NCR. The CIC program aims to

empower the students in their involvement in corruption prevention initiatives by developing their leadership skills and instilling the values of honesty, uprightness, social responsibility, and respect for human rights.

"The Office of the Ombudsman believes that we have to invest in the youth of today who will be the future leaders of the country," stated Overall Deputy Ombuds-

man Melchor Arthur Carandang in his keynote speech.

During the whole day affair, the student organizations presented their accomplishments in implementing the CIC-enrolled activities in their respective schools.

The Congress was organized by the OMB Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Office (PACPO) through the Community Coordination Bureau (CCB). (PIMRB)



Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang poses with PACPO Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Baliton, CCB OIC Rhodora Fenix-Galicia, CCB staff, and CIC officers in Metro Manila during the 1st CIC Congress for the NCR on December 10, 2014.

4 more Ombudsman lawyers don judicial robe

As in the past two years, judicial appointments continue to tip towards applicants from the Office of the Ombudsman.

Four more Ombudsman lawyers were appointed to the Judiciary in the second half of 2014. Of the 4 lawyers, two came from the Central Office and

one each from OMB Luzon and the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP).

Two were appointed to the Regional Trial Court (RTC) and one each to the Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) and Municipal Trial Court (MTC).

When asked why Ombudsman lawyers have been successful in landing

at judicial posts, Judge Rafael Hipolito replied that "the primordial reason is the homegrown culture of credibility and trustworthiness at the Office of the Ombudsman aside from the lawyers' competence and integrity."

Since 2012, the Office has produced 26 trial court judges. (PIMRB)

Name	OMB Position/Station	Judicial Appointment
Rafael G. Hipolito	Acting Director, BRO, PACPO	RTC Branch 215, Quezon City
Ruby R. Gonzales	GIPO II, BRO, PACPO	MCTC, Indang-Mendez-Nuñez, Cavite
Antonio O. Del Val	GIPO 1, CRMU, OMB Luzon	MTC, San Pablo, Laguna
Annielyn Medes-Cabelis	ASP II, OSP	RTC Branch 12, Ligao City, Albay