



INTEGRITY WATCH

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VP Binay & Mayor Binay, Jr., 22 others face criminal charges for Makati carpark case

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales has found probable cause for the filing of multiple charges for violation of Section 3(e) of Republic Act No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), Malversation of Public Funds and Falsification of public documents against Vice-President (VP) Jejomar Binay, Sr., Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Jun-Jun" Binay, Jr., and 22 others. The criminal charges are in connection with the anomalous bidding and con-

struction of the Makati carpark building project undertaken from 2007 to 2013.

The finding of probable cause comes after more than one (1) year of investigation. The fact-finding investigation began in September 2014 while the preliminary investigation began in March 2015.

VP Binay faces four (4) counts of violation of Section 3 (e) of R.A. No. 3019, six (6) counts of Falsification of Public Documents and one (1)

count of Malversation for his involvement in phases 1 and 2 of the carpark project.

In two separate Resolutions on six (6) docketed cases, flagrant irregularities were found to have been committed by Binay, Sr. et. al. in the design and construction of the building consisting of six (6) phases.

Documents show that VP Binay and Mayor Binay, Jr. approved the BAC resolutions, notices of awards, contracts

and payments using unnumbered/undated disbursement vouchers and obligation requests.

Ombudsman Morales junked VP Binay's contention that the office has no jurisdiction to investigate impeachable officials. She explained that "being an impeachable officer does not insulate him from investigation."

The Office of the Ombudsman stressed that VP Binay is

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KINDRED SPIRITS. The 2015 People of the Year awardees of *PeopleAsia* magazine are bound by their sense of professionalism and integrity in their respective fields. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales (sixth from left) is recognized for her exemplary work in government service. See complete story on page 4-5.

the Binays and the Makati carpark case

being investigated for criminal acts committed while he was a city mayor and not as vice-president. "At all events, impeachable officers, like Binay, Sr., are within the investigatory power or jurisdiction of this Office," the Resolution stated.

However, the Informations will be filed after the expiration of his tenure as an impeachable officer consistent with the principle that an incumbent impeachable officer cannot be the subject of a criminal

offense filed with the court which carries the penalty of removal from office.

Mayor Binay, Jr. faces four (4) counts of violation of Section 3(e) of R. A. No. 3019, six (6) counts of Falsification of Public Documents, and one (1) count of Malversation for his involvement in phases 2 to 6 of the project.

Ombudsman Morales also ordered the filing of criminal Informations against Binay's co-respondents, namely:

Marjorie De Veyra, Pio Kenneth Dasal, Lorenza Amores, Virginia Hernandez, Line Dela Peña, Mario Badillo, Leonila Querijero, Raydes Pestaño, Nelia Barlis, Cecilio Lim III, Arnel Cadangan, Emerito Magat, Connie Consulta, Ulysses Orienza, Giovanni Condes, Manolito Uyaco, Norman Flores, Gerardo San Gabriel, Eleno Mendoza, Jr. and Rodel Nayve. Also included in the indictment are Orlando Mateo from Mana Architec-

ture and Interior Design, Co. (MANA) and Efren Canlas of Hilmarc's Construction Company (Hilmarc's).

The services of MANA were engaged without the benefit of public bidding. The documents established badges of fraud committed by Binay, Sr. et.al. in manipulating the procurement to ensure the award of the contract to MANA; processing and approving a series of four (4) payments totaling to

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Zambian anti-corruption officials visit OMB

Officials from the Republic of Zambia's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) paid a visit to the Office of the Ombudsman in August 2015 for a study tour. The Zambian delegation, led by ACC Chairperson, Justice Timothy Kabalata, was welcomed by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

The study tour of the ACC sought to improve the administration of anti-corruption policies and initiatives in Zambia by looking at and learning from the best practices in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Justice Kabalata cited the programs being instituted by the Office of the Ombudsman and expressed great respect for the gains made by the Office, especially on how the slogan "*Manindigan Kontra Katiwalian*" has rubbed off on all officials and employees while noting that the culture of corruption in Zambia still leaves much to be desired.

The seven-man delegation also included Commissioners Rollen Mukanda, Julbert Sinyangwe and Pastor Mrs. Godfridah Sumaili, Secretary to the Commission Mathew Mbewe, Senior Human Resources Development Officer Rachel Chisanga Mtengo and Zambia High Commission in Kuala Lumpur First Secretary Fitness Mulnado.

Assistant Ombudsman Joselito Fangon of the Field Investigation Office, Deputy Special Prosecutor Omar Sagadal and Director Lourdes Salazar of the National Integrity Center briefed the Zambian delegation on the 8-point agenda of the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Republic of Zambia is still reeling from the effects of political instability as far back in the 90s and is constantly pushing for reforms especially in the anti-corruption front. Recently, it has been cited as one of the fastest economically reformed countries by the World Bank.



CORE FUNCTIONS. Office of the Ombudsman officials (L-R) Acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Omar Sagadal, Assistant Ombudsman Joselito Fangon, and the Director of the National Integrity Center Lourdes Salazar take turns in discussing the handling, evaluation, investigation and prosecution of graft and corruption cases.



KEEN INTEREST. Members of the Zambian anti-corruption commission listen intently to the briefing of officials of the Office of the Ombudsman. The delegation took particular interest on the successful prosecution of the plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada.

OMB presents PH Anti-Corruption gains in UN conference



PRIDE AND GLORY. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales shares the salient features of the anti-corruption agenda of the Philippine government and the successful initiatives of the Office of the Ombudsman which have put the Philippines on the international anti-corruption map.

“We celebrate our gains, but our optimism is tempered by the problems that persist” - Ombudsman Morales on the need to push the fight against corruption even further

Major gains against corruption in the Philippines were highlighted at the 6th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which was attended by over 1,500 representatives of 160 signatory states and more than 60 heads of national anti-corruption agencies.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, Head of the Philippine delegation, delivered the Philippine statement. Among its highlights were the key Philippine anti-corruption initiatives which include the Integrity Management Program, the Anti-Corruption Plan of 2015-2018 and passage of legislation strengthening the Sandiganbayan. Their results have gained international recognition.

Citing the country’s new ranking in the most recent Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Transparency International, Ombudsman Carpio Morales said that “in a span of five years, among the 174 coun-

tries surveyed, the Philippines’ ranking has improved by 54 notches, from 139th place in 2009 to 85th place in 2014.”

However, she emphasized, “We cannot afford to pause and lose momentum. We celebrate our gains, but our optimism is tempered by the problems that persist, as well as challenges that may emerge.”

Carpio Morales is a former Supreme Court Justice. As the current Ombudsman, she is publicly credited for indicting the most number of high government officials to court for various administrative and criminal offenses involving graft and corruption.

Carpio Morales also drew the connection between economic development and the fight against corruption. “The Philippines recognizes the vital role of the rule of law and accountable governance in economic development. We are confident

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OMB and British Embassy unveil new good governance project

The Office of the Ombudsman and the British Embassy took another step forward in their shared advocacy of battling graft and corruption with the launch of another reform-themed program: the Strengthening Investment for Good Governance and Integrity (SIGGI) Project.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and the British Ambassador to the Philippines Asif Ahmad led the signing of the bilateral agreement on September 24, 2015.

The SIGGI Project is a reform initiative of the Office of the Ombudsman. It is designed to strengthen the National Integrity Center as the primary training facility of the Office of the Ombudsman, and to enhance the implementation of the Investment Ombudsman program through a 5-year strategic plan. The British Embassy is supporting the project under its Prosperity Program.

“International relations are built on fundamental trust. Together, we make a stronger contribution to clean up the business of government so people will have better lives,” said Ambassador Ahmad as a gesture of support.

In her expression of commitment, Ombudsman Morales said that the efforts being undertaken by the Office in strengthening the reform agenda of institutions are trusted investments on democracy and good governance.

“I assure the British government that the Office of the Ombudsman is committed. I take your trust,” declared Ombudsman Morales.

The SIGGI Project comes at the heels of five other project collaborations successfully carried out by the Republic of the Philippines and the British government.



SHARED GOALS. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and British Ambassador to the Philippines Asif Ahmad extend congratulatory handshakes after the signing of a new partnership agreement that would fortify anti-corruption initiatives.

“the reform agenda of institutions are trusted investments on democracy and good governance.” - Ombudsman Morales



ICON OF INTEGRITY. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales receives the iconic People of the Year trophy from *PeopleAsia* magazine General Manager and Editor-in-Chief Joanne Ramirez and Coca-Cola FEMSA Director of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Juan Carlos Dominguez.

It was January 26, 2016, a Monday evening when the Rizal Ballroom of the Hotel Sofitel in Pasay City sprang to life as guests started coming in for the annual awards night organized by *PeopleAsia* magazine (published by Stargate Media which is under the wing of the major broadsheet publication, *The Philippine Star*). The event was put together to honor and recognize the sterling achievements of 17 ac-

complished Filipinos coming from a diverse set of professions.

In no time, the program hosts – *Kapuso* actor and host Paolo Bediones and writer and personality development expert Bianca Valerio – began presenting the 17 awardees and handing out the trophies. The audience was instantly engaged. This was after all the 11th year of the highly respected *PeopleAsia Awards*.



BUZZWORD DU JOUR. Ombudsman Morales is credited for bringing a whole new dimension to the buzz phrase ‘integrity in public service’. In this photo, she gamely accedes to the request of the *PeopleAsia* editorial team to have her last photo layout taken—indeed fittingly—at the area beneath the glass-paneled ceiling of the new Ombudsman Building. The newly-built edifice was completed under her watch.

Fire in the Belly

PeopleAsia magazine hails Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales as one of the 2015 People of the Year awardees. The award trains the spotlight on anti-corruption advocacy, a subject that is often fodder for news articles, editorials and op-ed pages rather than a glossy lifestyle magazine.

The chosen

The People of the Year award by *PeopleAsia* magazine represents the grit and character of the Filipino and humanizes the technical and creative excellence of the awardees. In the words of Mr. Babe Romualdez, the publisher of the bi-monthly glossy magazine, “(we’re) bringing our readers more stories about people whose extraordinary achievements serve as a source of inspiration to ordinary Filipinos. All these so that they may reach for greater things and drive change in society, in order to help make life better for others.”

Drawing inspiration from the Ombudsman’s tenacity of character, Mr. Romualdez went on to say: “We have Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales who, despite personal tragedies, is unflinching in her job of going after the corrupt.”

The publisher was referring to Umberto Morales, Ombudsman Carpio Morales’ youngest child, who passed away in the first week of October 2015. It will be recalled that around that time, the Office of the Ombudsman resolved a couple of high-profile cases and dismissed incumbent local officials from the service. This fact, coupled with a photo of Ombudsman Morales attending to the wake of her son which landed on the front pages of several major dailies, was a deeply moving story of a grieving mother who is also taking on tremendous sacrifices for the sake of the nation.

The grace by which the Ombudsman carried the situation through was a compelling story that caught media attention.

‘The Fury’

It was past 10 o’clock in the morning of November 24, 2015 when the *PeopleAsia* editorial team led by Monica Araneta Tiosejo, writer Kap Maceda Aguila, art director Ramon Ruiz and photographer Jar Concengco arrived at the Office of the Ombudsman for the scheduled interview and photo shoot.

While the team was excited to see the Ombudsman up close and personal, everyone was also uptight and fidgety. Monica was forthright when she asked: “*Okay ba si Madame Justice?*”

The anxiety was understandable. Who wouldn’t be anxious to meet this remarkable woman? The editorial team was about to meet and talk to a former justice of the Supreme Court and the country’s Ombudsman whose reputation as a no-nonsense public servant precedes her; one who is strong-willed and does not back down from a challenge.

But the moment the *PeopleAsia* team was ushered into the office, they were greeted by the Ombudsman’s disarming smile. The Ombudsman’s motherly affection drew them in right away for good measure.

Having warmed up to each other, the interview got under-

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IN GOOD COMPANY. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales shares a light moment with her co-awardees: GMA-7 news anchor and host Vicky Morales-Reyno (left) and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima (in blue).

way quickly. The Ombudsman was running a tight schedule but she did not pass up firing away a witty joke and a one-liner which proved to be the proverbial ice breaker.

Ombudsman Morales engaged the team to a heartfelt conversation while driving home some important points in the process. She said that anti-corruption should be everybody's concern. She also emphasized that zero-tolerance to corruption should be a default mindset and second nature to everyone. No ifs or buts.

"*Galit talaga ako sa corrupt*," she said emphatically.

The Ombudsman took the opportunity to discuss the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman. She shared some insights on the challenges she had in reforming the agency. The tête-à-tête also brought out the other facet of the Ombudsman's personality as the conversation touched on interesting asides about food, travel, culture, music, arts, beauty regimens and her little indulgences.

These engaging sound bites and her photo shoot lay-

outs eventually found their way into a 4-page feature entitled '*The Fury*' (*PeopleAsia* magazine, January 2016 issue) which delves on the Ombudsman's inspiring life story and distinguished career in the judiciary.

'The Rockstar'

During the interview, writer Kap Aguila asked the Ombudsman how it feels to be treated like a rockstar? The Ombudsman answered magnanimously: "I'm humbled by the support of the people for the Office."

The Ombudsman was referring to the favorable reaction in social media to the accomplishments of the Office, which she attributes to the hardworking men and women of the anti-corruption agency.

"Of course, as head of the agency, I'm the one being praised but the truth of the matter is, the recognition goes to everyone in the Office (of the Ombudsman)," she quips.

But apart from the passion and dedication she puts into the job, her rockstar status comes from netizens' appreciation of her moral courage. She neither shirks from her obligations even if she labors under the most dangerous situations nor goes out of her way to smooth ruffled feathers. In fact, the

past months have seen the Ombudsman defending the institution from allegations that it is selective in dispensing justice. But at the end of the day, no amount of mudslinging or namecalling from her detractors could slow her down.

"We're not deterred by any threat," the Ombudsman said recently as a reaction to an impending damage suit being bruited about by the camp of a high profile politician.

PeopleAsia's People of the Year award is a testament to the sustained effort and determined leadership of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales to put the corrupt to justice. She had been similarly recognized for her anti-corruption efforts: as 2014 People of the Year by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Filipino of the Year by the PHILCONSA and the Peace Award by Rotary International 3830, among others.

The Ombudsman really has that fire in the belly.



'THE FURY'. The opening spread of the 4-page feature on Ombudsman Morales published in the January 2016 issue of the *PeopleAsia* magazine.

Office of the Ombudsman Christmas Celebration



Christmas Bazaar/Raffle Draw



Gift Giving



Dance Contest



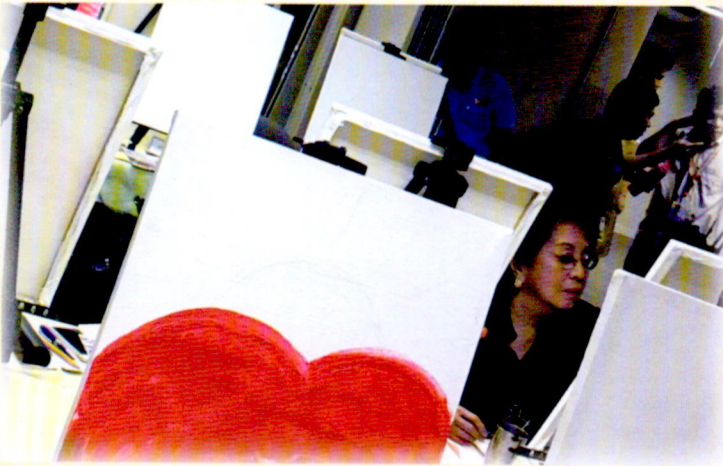
Battle of the Bands



OMB leads art workshop on anti-corruption



'FUNCTIONAL ART'. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales drives a point home in her keynote speech—that art has an integral function in anti-corruption activities.



VIGNETTE. Ombudsman Morales tries her hand in watercolor-on-canvas painting. The Ombudsman had formal lessons in painting during her stint at the Supreme Court.



ART'S ART. Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur "Art" Carandang takes instructions seriously from the visiting art guru before he begins churning out his creative juices.

Can't anti-corruption activism come from a happy place? Yes it can, definitely.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and other key officials took an afternoon breather from their hectic schedules when they led participants in a 'fun art' workshop entitled *Ugnay-Sining Laban sa Korupsyon* held at the Ombudsman Function Room on December 7, 2015.

In her keynote message, Ombudsman Morales said that the art workshop serves as a campaign platform to reinforce the message that fighting corruption takes on different forms and that art has a way of imbuing the right discipline and skill in promoting societal change and development.

Held as part of the celebration of the Anti-Corruption Month as mandated by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Charter, the event drew participants from development partners (British Embassy Manila, United Nations Development Programme), USAID, Deloitte and Jollibee Foods Corporation, representatives from the constitutional commissions (Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit and Commission on Elections), representatives from the Office of the President, Department of the Interior and Local Government and the National Economic and Development Authority, civil society organizations, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, Makati Business Club, Blog Watch, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Integrity Initiative, Inc., media partners ABS-CBN, GMA 7, TV 5, CNN Philippines and UNTV and the Campus Integrity Crusaders.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 10589, the month of December has been declared as the Anti-Corruption Month in the Philippines. Further, the Office of the Ombudsman has been designated as the lead agency in the crafting and mounting of activities designed to ramp up efforts in the fight against corruption.



DRAWING INSPIRATION. Deputy Ombudsman Gerard Mosquera looks to Ombudsman Morales' strokes and technique for some creative inspiration.



MOVING FORCE. With silent intensity, the Ombudsman works on the red palette of the art template which signifies force or strength which, in many ways, is inherent in the organizational ethos of the Office of the Ombudsman.



ARTISTIC CRUSADE. From the perspective of the youth, art takes on an idealistic form (Campus Integrity Crusaders).



THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE. Ombudsman Morales' output acquires a deeper meaning on account of her passion for the arts and her advocacy for public service molded in integrity.

OMB holds Integrity Caravan in Ilocos Region



DRIVING THE POINT HOME. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales speaks before her *'cailian'* (province mates) in her home province of Ilocos Norte. The Multi-Sectoral Forum afforded the Ombudsman the platform to put her anti-corruption message across by harking back to the traditional Ilocano values of discipline, honesty, trust and respect.

Integrity took on some local flavor as the Office of the Ombudsman went all the way to the north for the Integrity Caravan on October 15-16, 2015 in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

Zeroing-in on the theme “Sowing the Seeds of Integrity” (*Panagmula ti Bin-i ti Integridad*), the integrity roadshow brought together top officials of the Office of the Ombudsman and its stakeholders—local government officials, the academe, business sector, church leaders, civil society and students—for a dialogue aimed at engaging the public and private sectors on the programs of the anti-corruption agency.

During the Multi-Sectoral Forum held at the Plaza Del Norte Hotel and Convention Center, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales exhorted her fellow Ilocanos to support the anti-corruption initiatives of the Office by reporting the corrupt activities of local officials. She emphasized the importance of braving a collective front in the fight against corruption.

“Haan kayo nga agbutbuteng ken madanagan kadagiti agtuturay nga politico nga naagom ta iti opisina iti Ombudsman ket adda nga mangisakit kadacayo (Don’t be afraid or wary with the influence of these greedy politicians because the Office of the Ombudsman is here to protect you),” the Ombudsman said in the vernacular.

She also took the opportunity to introduce the Investment Ombudsman and Environmental Ombudsman programs to the participants. Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang and Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Gerard Mosquera who are concurrently the head of the investment and environmental ombudsman teams, respectively, presented the objectives and feedback mechanism of the programs.

The Youth Empowerment Forum was held at the Laoag City Auditorium. The

forum afforded high school students a platform for a meaningful discourse on integrity and honesty. The Barangay Good Governance Seminar, on the other hand, tackled the salient features of the Government Procurement Reform Act, among others, to guide barangay officials in the performance of their functions.

The event is expected to further build strategic and collaborative efforts of all anti-corruption stakeholders in the Ilocos Region.



POWER OF IDEALISM. Ombudsman Morales answers a query from a student during the Youth Empowerment Forum. The forum is designed to give youth leaders a deeper and more meaningful understanding and appreciation of the concepts of integrity and accountability.

OMB-Visayas celebrates International Anti-Corruption Day in Cebu

The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas took the lead in bringing 43 government agencies and 22 private groups to the Municipality of Balamban, Cebu for the celebration of the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2015.

The activity, which started in 2006, is in line with the Office's role as protector of the people, part of which is the authority to mobilize government agencies to perform their respective duties and functions. A total of 5,314 individuals, mostly from the marginalized sectors of the municipalities of Balamban, Asturias and Pinamungahan, as well as those from Toledo City, availed of various social services.

The caravan also provided an avenue for Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas to cascade its corruption prevention programs to far-flung areas.

The Office conducted a public accountability seminar for local officials and department heads of Balamban and its neighboring LGUs on December 8, 2015. The discussions zeroed-in on gender awareness and development and the Investment Ombudsman program of the Office.

In his keynote message, the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Paul Elmer Clemente stressed the importance of pooling the efforts of the public and private sectors in the delivery of public service and in the pursuit of good governance.

#ManindiganKontraKatiwalian



MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION. More than a thousand beneficiaries were able to avail themselves of the medical and dental services provided by various government agencies and private institutions. The Caravan also held seminars that catered to the needs of out-of-school youths, children in conflict with the law and their parents. Further, the Campus Integrity Crusaders (CIC) program of the Office of the Ombudsman was able to accredit 19 student organizations during the event.

#ProtectorofthePeople

UN conference....from page 3

that the spirit of good governance and integrity which drives our community of nations will triumph over the forces of corruption that cause social inequities and economic disparities," she told the UN gathering.

The Philippine delegation is co-headed by Commission on Audit Chairperson Michael Aguinaldo and composed of representatives from the Office of the President, Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Menardo Guevarra and the Deputy Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration Ronaldo Geron. The Philippine Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Carlos Sorreta, along with Department of Justice Undersecretary Zabedin Azis and Anti-Money Laundering Council Executive Director Julia Bacay-Abad, were also with the Philippine Delegation.

Ending her address, Ombudsman Carpio Morales reiterated "The Philippines strongly re-affirms its commitment to uphold the principles and spirit of the Convention and expresses its readiness to embark on the second cycle of the review mechanism."

The Philippines signed the UNCAC on 09 December 2003 and ratified it on 08 November 2006.

Binays....from page 5

P11.97 million despite the incomplete submission of deliverables such as design plans, working drawings, and technical specifications.

Procurement violations were also committed, including the absence of publication of invitations to bid as provided in Republic Act No. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act).

A certified true copy of the publication obtained from the National Library showed that no advertisement for the invitations to bid was attested to by the publisher.

There was also undue haste in the award as it took the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) only 11 days to complete the procurement process for the multi-million peso infrastructure project.

The Ombudsman explained that "the purported negotiation and evaluation of bid proposals on 22 November 2007 was conducted with extraordinary speed" as "for one hour only, the BAC completed the entire negotiation proceedings where bid proposals of seven architectural firms that allegedly participated in this multi-million project were opened and evaluated." Even the Commission on Audit Fraud Audit Office's Initial Evaluation Report noted that "the negotiated procurement

adopted by the BAC was improper."

The construction projects were awarded to Hilmarc's despite the lack of the required publication of the invitations to bid, with Hilmarc's as the lone bidder in four (4) phases of the project.

Construction project began even in the absence of approved design standards, contract plans, agency cost estimates, detailed engineering and programs of work. No pre-procurement conference was undertaken and bid documents were made available only for one (1) day in violation of R.A. No. 9184.

The Resolutions explained that there was collusion among city officials and Hilmarc's to manipulate the outcome of the five (5) "public biddings" for the purpose of ensuring that Hilmarc's would be awarded the contracts.

An executive from JBros, an alleged bidder, corroborated the finding of rigged bidding and disowned the firm's participation.

According to Ombudsman Morales, "the existence of conspiracy among respondents is evident from the chain of events and as shown by the evidence on record."

It will be recalled that on 09 October 2015, the Office of the Ombudsman ordered the dismissal from the service and perpetual disqualification of Mayor Binay, Jr. and 17 others for Grave Misconduct and Serious Dishonesty in the parallel administrative case.

Ombudsman-Mindanao opens Gender Information Desk in Davao City

The Office of the Ombudsman launched its Gender Information Desk (GID) in November 2015 in Davao City. The GID serves as an information counter focusing on gender-related issues.

Director Maria Iluminada Lapid-Viva, OMB-Mindanao's gender focal person, said that "this facility aims to improve OMB-Mindanao's response to requests for assistance on gender matters involving government personnel."

The GID, which accords privacy to the parties, is stationed in the Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Office (PACPO) at the ground floor of the building where the OMB-Mindanao holds office in Alvarez Street.

OMB-Mindanao also aims to equip its staff with skills in the proper handling of requests for assistance relating to gender issues. At the same time, it will explore the setting up of data collection and case management system to strengthen the monitoring of information on the incidence, types and patterns of gender-based violence.

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