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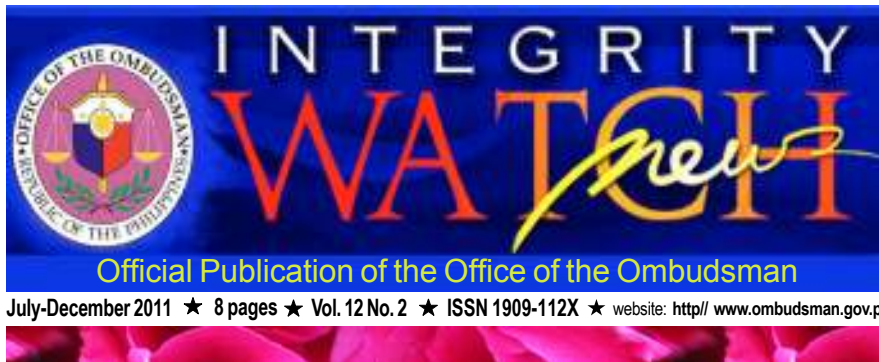
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Justice Morales is new Ombudsman



JUSTICE CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES TAKES HER OATH OF OFFICE AS THE NEW PHILIPPINE OMBUDSMAN BEFORE PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

By Anna Maria S. Sanchez

JUSTICE CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES assumed office as the 5th Ombudsman of the Republic of the Philippines on 26 July 2011, a day after President Benigno S. Aquino III announced her appointment to the post during his 2nd State of the Nation Address.

Immediately after setting foot at the OMB Building in Quezon City, Ombudsman Morales buckled down to work, conducting consultations with ranking officials and reviewing existing organizational structure and policies in the Office.

Her first order was to hire additional 100 qualified and competent lawyers to ensure the speedy disposition of pending criminal and administrative cases, which records reveal now reached 11,000. This sets the tenor of her administration's thrust for the succeeding seven years which is to go after the big fish and ensure successful prosecution of cases.

During the turn over ceremony, she vowed to prioritize high profile cases and cleanse the Office of non-performing personnel in an effort to win back the public's trust and confidence to the anti-graft agency.

New OMB / 4

Ombudsman Morales approves Panel's Report on 'Chopper' Case

By Anna Maria S. Sanchez

OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA Carpio Morales approved the Investigation Report recommending the conduct of preliminary investigation and administrative adjudication on the alleged anomalous acquisition by the Philippine National Police (PNP) of two Light Operational

Chopper / 5

Ombudsman Morales bares 8-point agenda

By AO Asryman Rafanan

OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES ANNOUNCED THE seven-year roadmap of the Office of the Ombudsman in her first press conference since she assumed office.

In the presscon held on October 14, 2011 at the Ombudsman Function Room, Ombudsman Morales expounded on the Office's policy thrust and 8-point priorities from 2011 to 2018. The strategic plan came after a month-long consultation with the various units and bureaus and a week-long pre-planning workshop and executive planning session by Ombudsman officials and employees.

As a policy thrust, Ombudsman Carpio Morales vowed to "enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, credibility and responsiveness" of the Office of the Ombudsman towards the "improvement of corruption prevention and control." As part of her reform programs, she is vigorously pursuing and prioritizing eight identified agenda:

8-Point Agenda / 6

Graft charges filed against GMA re: NBN ZTE deal

By AO Asryman Rafanan

THE OFFICE OF THE Ombudsman filed with the Sandiganbayan three Informations against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) in connection with the NBN-ZTE deal.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales approved the 43-page Resolution submitted on December 23, 2011 by the Investigating Panel that recommended the filing of the panel

Graft / 4

Strengthening JGU Volunteerism: Youth in Action Against Corruption

By Lulu L. Estonanto

THIS WAS THE THEME of the successful celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Junior Graftwatch Units (JGUs) Program held on December 8, 2011. The event was attended by about 500 JGU officers and advisers from the 95 schools of the National Capital Region (NCR), Divisions of Pangasinan I and II, and Dagupan City. The annual celebration aims to strengthen the sense of camaraderie among JGUs through various social and cultural activities and educational competitions. It is also our Office's way of recognizing JGUs efforts in helping the Office implement its graft

prevention programs such as the promotion of good values among Filipino youth and raising their sense of righteousness and civic consciousness.

The celebration started at 6:30 A.M. with the *"We Walk Our Talk: Alay Lakad Kontra Korupsyon"* around the Quezon City Circle Bikers Lane led by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando C. Casimiro, PACPO Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn A. Baliton and CCB Officer-in-Charge Atty. Rhodora N. Fenix-Galicia. This was followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass at the OMB Tent. During the program proper at 11:00 AM,

Assistant Ombudsman Baliton welcomed all the JGUs officers and advisers to the 15th Anniversary celebration of the JGU Program. Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Francis H. Jardeleza delivered his inspirational message to the delight of the JGUs officers and advisers. DO Jardeleza and AO Baliton also led the ribbon cutting of the JGUs photo exhibit at the OMB Tent.

At 1:00PM, the On-The-Spot Competitions were simultaneously held in the different areas of the Office. The winners were as follows: **Slogan-Making Contest:** *Champion:* DepEd Makati (Gen. Pio del Pilar NHS), *1st Runner-up:*

JGU / 7

Teaching Demo on good values held in public schools

By Angel DL. Cusi

IN LINE WITH THE mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) in fighting graft and corruption through anti-corruption education and promotion, teaching demonstrations of the modules of the Graft and Corruption Prevention Education Teaching

Exemplars (GCPE TE) were held in the public elementary and secondary schools to promote the full integration of the modules of the GCPE TE in the MAKABAYAN and Values Education subjects at the school level per DepEd Memorandum Circular No. 13, series of 2007.

The GCPE TE Program which is a joint undertaking with the Department of Education is one of the mainstream anti-corruption education programs of the Office of the Ombudsman which intends to mold and instill positive values among the students in the public elementary and secondary schools. With technical assistance from the European Commission under the EC-OMB Corruption Prevention Project, Improving Governance to Reduce Poverty, around 200,000 copies of the teaching exemplars were printed. Almost all copies were distributed to public elementary and secondary schools nationwide

Teaching / 5

PromptLine

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

By Lirio E. de Leon-Dizon

CLAIMS FOR SURVIVORSHIP PENSION

MR. ROMEO C. BARBA OF SURIGAO CITY sought the assistance of the Public Assistance Bureau (PAB) of the Office of the Ombudsman-Central Office concerning his complaint against GSIS officials in Pasay City and Surigao City for allegedly ignoring his letters to them in connection with the discrepancy of his and his children's claims for survivorship pension on account of the death of his wife Marianita C. Barba, a public school teacher and GSIS member. Mr. Barba claimed that he and his children were expecting to receive the amount of Php5,240.28 as monthly pension. However, he received the amounts, Php860.00 and Php970.00 for the months, June and July 2010, respectively. Through letters, PAB referred Mr. Barba's concerns to GSIS. On January 17, 2011, PAB was glad to be informed through the letter of Ms. Mercedita Irene, Manager, Public Relations and Monitoring Department of GSIS, that all the accrued pensions of Mr. Barba and his children from June 2010 up to January 2011 were already credited to his eCard account with the corrected amount of pension.

CLARIFICATION IN THE COMPUTATION OF BUSINESS TAX

MS. ROWENA GO, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ETM Tax Agent Office (ETM-TAO), Inc. furnished the PAB with a copy of their letter to Mr. Edgar T. Villanueva, OIC-City Treasurer, Quezon City regarding the status of their letter requesting clarification on their assessment for City Tax for 2011. Ms. Go mentioned in her letter that their company was assessed using the sales which were computed and reflected on their Income Tax Return for 2009 instead of their sales for 2010. PAB wrote to Mr. Villanueva relative to Ms. Go's request. On June 29, 2011, PAB received a letter-reply from Mr. Villanueva with the information that their office already answered Ms. Go's letter, a copy of which was furnished to PAB. In said letter, they informed Ms. Go that after examination and evaluation of their company's records, they found out that there has been an error in the tax base used in the computation of the company's business tax for the year 2011, hence, the overpayment will be refunded in the form of tax credit to be applied in full to the tax obligation of Ms. Go's company.



Ms. Juliet Villano demonstrates the teaching of the module "Ang Krayola ni Tina" to the Grade 1 pupils of Batangas South Elementary School. Observing the demo are District Supervisors, Principals, MAKABAYAN and Values Education teachers of the Division of Batangas City.

Punish the Guilty

By Jelbert L. Perdez

PNP Officials Convicted of Graft

THE SANDIGANBAYAN convicted two retired and seven active police officials for graft in connection with the P38 million worth of ghost purchases in 1992.

In a 44-page decision penned by Associate Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, the Anti-Graft Court's Fifth Division meted out a penalty of 6 years and 1 month to ten years imprisonment against Chief Supt. (ret.) Everlino Nartatez; Sr. Supt. (ret.) Alejandro A. Camello; Supts. Obedio Espeña and Alejandro Camello; Chief Inspectors Jose de Vera and Adolfo Pamplona Sr.; Sr. Insp. Lloyd Cawan and Leo Marzan; and PO3 Ramon Lihay-lihay for violation of Section 3(e) of Republic Act No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

The Court ordered them to pay the government jointly and severally the amount of P38,275,573.50 that was paid for by the Philippine National Police (PNP) for the Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) but were never delivered.

They were also perpetually disqualified from holding any government position.

Records of the case showed that to avoid scrutiny by higher authorities, the multi-million peso deal was maliciously divided into 29 purchase orders (POs) from February to June 1992.

Then Director of the PNP Logistics and Support Command Nartatez, approved the POs where the splitting of contracts occurred. Marzan acted as the purchasing officer while Espeña, then chief of the PNP Procurement Center, requested the purchases of the equipment.

Camello recommended the approval of the POs and certified that the expenses were necessary and lawful, according to the records.

The rest, meanwhile, were found guilty of conspiring with the higher ranking officials when they signed the inspection and acceptance report to make it appear that there was actual delivery of the CCIE.

The Prosecution Team led by Deputy Special Prosecutor John I.C. Turralba of the Office of the Special Prosecutor was able to prove that there were no deliveries made of the said equipment.

In its ruling, the Court noted that there was "a pattern of splitting the POs and checks so that these may fall within the signing authority of accused Nartatez. This casts serious doubt on the regularity of the issuance of the POs, DVs (disbursement Voucher), and check payments."

Concurring with the ruling were Associate Justices Alex L. Quiroz and Roland B. Jurado.

IAAGCC Updates

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• NEW OMBUDSMAN calls IAAGCC Meeting.

On 02 September 2010, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales called a meeting of the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council (IAAGCC) which member-agencies are OMB, CSC, COA, PAGC, NBI and DOJ. The Principals of the member-agencies who attended the meeting were: COA Chairperson Ma. Gracia M. Pulido-Tan, CSC Chairman Francisco T. Duque III, DOJ Secretary Leila B. De Lima and NBI Director Magtanggol B. Gatdula. Except for CSC Chair Duque, all the other Principals were newly-appointed heads of their respective member-agencies. Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn A. Baliton, Presiding Officer of the IAAGCC Consultative Committee (Consulcom), made a detailed presentation of the history, accomplishments and status of the IAAGCC. During the meeting, the principals approved the recommendation that the Chairmanship of the Council shall remain with the Office of the Ombudsman and urged Ombudsman Morales to continue as Chairperson.

• DBM and DOF Accepted as New IAAGCC Members.

During the meeting of the Ombudsman with Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad in July 2011, the latter proposed that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance (DOF) be accepted as members of the IAAGCC. When their respective Letters of Intent were

received, DBM and DOF's acceptance to the Council were approved during the Council's meetings on 02 September 2011 and 07 October 2011, respectively.

• ODESLA Replaces PAGC as Member of IAAGCC.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), one of the founding members of the IAAGCC was abolished by Executive Order No. 13, issued on 15 November 2010. In response to a query written by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa that the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs (ODESLA) was designated as member of the IAAGCC in place of the defunct PAGC with Undersecretary Ronaldo A. Geron as the official representative of the ODESLA to the IAAGCC.

• IAAGCC Adopts UNCAC.

At its meeting on 07 October 2011, the IAAGCC formally adopted the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) as

the framework of the Council.

• **IAAGCC Holds Strategic Planning.** On December 14-15, 2011, a Strategic Planning Conference was held in Best Western Premier F1 Hotel. It was attended by the IAAGCC's Consulcom members representing the member-agencies and their Principals. The process, structure, programs and operations of the Council were closely examined and re-tuned in the light of current political, social and economic demands and societal expectations. Major decisions/actions during the strategic planning includes: **approval of the resolutions on the Merger of Constitutional Integrity Group (CIG) into the IAAGCC and the Outline of the Proposed Guidelines of Cooperation.** The approval of the guidelines was subject to the inclusion of provisions to provide a channel to access other branches of the government (e.g. the Judiciary), and to correct deficiencies and craft remedies on corruption prevention.



OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES poses with other IAAGCC Principals, Consulcom members and the secretariat during the Strategic Planning Conference on December 15, 2011 at Best Western Premier F1 Hotel, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.



OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES receives the OMB Flag from Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando C. Casimiro during the Turn Over Ceremony held on August 1, 2011 at the OMB Tent. Looking on are DO for Luzon Francis H. Jardeleza (Left), DO for Visayas Pelagio S. Apostol (2nd - R) and DO for Mindanao Humphrey P. Monteroso (Right)

5. improved responsiveness of public assistance
6. improved anti-corruption policy and program coordination among sectors
7. rationalization of the functional structure
8. enhanced transparency and credibility

Prior to her appointment, Ombudsman Morales served the Judiciary for 28 years, from Presiding Judge of the Pili, Camarines Sur Regional Trial Court in 1983, to Associate Justice of the Supreme Court until her retirement on 19 June 2011.

Ombudsman Morales succeeded Ma. Mercedesita N. Gutierrez, who served the Office from 01 December 2005 until her resignation on 06 May 2011. The previous Ombudsmen were the late Justice Conrado M. Vasquez (1988-1995), Aniano A. Desierto (1995-2002), and Simeon V. Marcelo (2002-2005).

First 100 days

Ombudsman Morales marks her first 100 days in office with almost all bureaus in the Central Office including the area and sectoral offices exceeding their targets.

In the OMB-Central Office, the Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office (PAMO) I and II projected resolution of 5% of their respective pending priority cases. Both offices exceeded their targets: PAMO I has disposed of 135 or 74% of the 183 pending priority cases while PAMO II has disposed of a total of 37 or 28.46% of the 130 pending priority cases.

The three area and one sectoral offices, OMB-Luzon, OMB-Visayas, OMB-Mindanao and OMB-MOLEO have all committed to resolve 5% of their respective total pending

priority cases. All offices have exceeded their targets: OMB-Luzon resolved 230 or 33% of the 697 pending cases involving High Ranking Officials (HRO); OMB-Visayas 74 or 50% of the 147 pending priority cases; OMB-Mindanao, 50 or 13.19% of the 379 priority cases, and OMB-MOLEO, 80 or 21.06% of the 380 priority cases.

Summing up all the reports submitted by the different offices, the Office of the Ombudsman has disposed of a total of 606 cases; completed fact-finding on a total of 876 complaints; successfully prosecuted a total of 35 cases before the Sandiganbayan and the regular courts; attended to a total of 2,931 requests for assistance and conducted 71 anti-corruption seminars nationwide.

The Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Review Bureau (PARB) which handles cases filed against governors and vice-governors has disposed of a total of 1,093 cases or 97.67% out of the 1,119 pending cases. This is 17.67% higher than the targeted disposition of 80%.

The Community Coordination Bureau (CCB) of the Public Assistance Corruption Prevention Office (PACPO) which committed to accredit 165 Junior Graftwatch Units (JGUs) accredited a total of 238 JGUs in the National Capital Region and in the areas of Luzon in coordination with the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

Submitted also for approval as part of the commitments by the OMB-Central Office's Public Assistance Bureau and Bureau of Resident Ombudsmen were the proposed Manual of Operations for Requests for Assistance Procedure and Feedback Handling Mechanism to ensure that all requests for assistance (RAS) are properly and promptly acted upon and the proposed BRO Manual of Operations.

NEW OMB *from page 1*

She also ordered the conduct of a Strategic Planning Workshop participated in by all ranking officials from OMB-Central, OMB-Luzon, OMB-Visayas, OMB-Mindanao, OMB-Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (OMB-MOLEO) and Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) to determine flaws in the current system and propose solutions to improve them.

The result of this series of consultations is the eight-point agenda which Ombudsman Morales intends to pursue from 2011-2018, namely:

1. disposition of high profile cases
2. zero backlog
3. improved "survival" rate of fact-finding
4. enforced monitoring of referred cases

GRAFT *from page 1*

conducted preliminary investigation on the Complaint filed by Bayan Muna Representative Teddy Casiño, former Gabriela Representative Liza Maza, and BAYAN Chairperson Maria Carolina Pagaduan-Araullo.

GMA was charged with violating (i) **Section 3(g) of Republic Act (RA) No. 3019** or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, (ii) **Section 3(i) of RA 3019**, and (iii) **Section 7(d) of RA No. 6713** or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Likewise charged in the first Information of having conspired with GMA were former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, former Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and former Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Chairman Benjamin Abalos, Sr.

The five-person Investigating Panel, composed of Assistant Ombudsman Marilou Ancheta-Mejica, Director Nellie Boguen-Golez, Assistant Special Prosecutor III Roland Galvan, Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II (GIPO II) Leilani Tagulao-Marquez, and GIPO II Richard Buban, was given thirty (30) days, in an Office Order dated November 23, 2011, within which to complete the preliminary investigation and submit its report and recommendations.

Under RA 3019, Section 3(g) penalizes the act of "[e]ntering, on behalf of the government, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to same, whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby;" while Section 3(i) penalizes that of "[d]irectly or indirectly becoming interested, for personal gain, or having a material interest in any transaction

or act requiring the approval of a board, panel or group of which he is a member, and which exercises discretion in such approval, even if he votes against the same or does not participate in the action of the board, committee, panel or group" wherein "[i]nterest for personal gain shall be presumed against those public officers responsible for the approval of manifestly unlawful, inequitable, or irregular transactions or acts by the board, panel, group to which they belong."

Under RA 6713, Section 7(d) prohibits public officials and employees from "solicit[ing] or accept[ing], directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any operation being regulated by, or any

CHOPPER *from page 1*

Police Helicopters (Chopper Case).

The Special Panel of Investigators, composed of Deputy Special Prosecutor John Turralba and Assistant Ombudsman Joselito Fangon as chairpersons, and Director Maria Olivia Elena Roxas, Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer Dennis Mendoza, and Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer John Zernan Sambajon as members, submitted the Investigation Report on time on November 21, 2011.

The panel acted in compliance with the Ombudsman’s directive dated October 13, 2011 to conduct a fact-finding on the Report submitted by the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee and the Complaint filed by the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

In its 98-page Investigation Report, the fact-finding panel found sufficient evidence to file criminal and/or administrative charges of (i) Violation of Section 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt

Practices Act against Jose Miguel “Mike” Arroyo, former DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno, former PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa, Hilario de Vera, Napolcom Commissioners Avelino Razon, Jr., Miguel Coronel, Celia Sanidad-Leones, Director Conrado Sumanga, Jr., and 28 other PNP officers and personnel; (ii) Falsification by public officers and personnel; and (iii) Gross Neglect of Duty and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of Service against 21 PNP Officers and personnel.

The fact-finding investigators, as nominal complainants, will file the formal Complaint/s before a Special Panel of Investigating Prosecutors, created by Ombudsman Carpio Morales, composed of Director Manuel Soriano, Jr., Director Omar Sagadal, and Director Dennis Garcia, who were given a period of 60 days from the filing of the complaint/s within which to conduct the preliminary investigation and administrative adjudication, and submit its report and recommendation.

GRAFT *from page 4*

transaction which may be affected by the functions of their office.”

In the same Resolution, the OMB dismissed for insufficiency of evidence the criminal charge of plunder as against the four respondents, the criminal charges of violations of Section 3(b) and (e) of RA 3019 as against GMA, Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Mendoza; and the criminal charge of Section 7 (d) of RA 6713 as against Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Mendoza. The criminal charge of violations of Sections 4 and 5 of RA 3019 against Mr. Arroyo was also dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Moreover, the panel recommended the conduct of fact-finding investigation against Emmanuel Ang, Philippine Commercial Attache, for Infidelity in the Custody of Documents.

TEACHING *from page 2*

through DepEd Division and District Offices from 2007 to 2008 with the assistance of the Millennium Challenge Account Philippine Threshold Program (MCA PTP).

A total of eighteen (18) elementary and secondary modules were demonstrated by the teachers and pupils/students in the Divisions of Caloocan City, Manila, Quezon City, Pangasinan I and II, Baguio City, Batangas City and District II of Bacoor, Cavite. The Division Superintendents, District Supervisors, Principals and MAKABAYAN teachers who attended the demonstrations expressed their commitment to support the full implementation of the program.

First Successful DOH-IDC National Convention

By **Bella Aurora C. Asuncion**

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Integrity Development Committee (DOH-IDC) conducted its 1st National Convention with the theme, “**Matuwid na daan tungo sa Kalusugan Pangkalahatan**” on August 17-18, 2011 at the Bayview Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila. It was attended by DOH Executive Committee members such as Undersecretary David J. Lozada, Jr. and Teodoro J. Herbosa and Assistant Secretary Nemesio T. Gako. Participants were DOH-IDC officers and members, IDC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of all Hospitals under the Center for Health Developments (CHDs), Special Hospitals and Medical Centers, Specialty/Corporate Hospitals in Metro Manila, and DOH-attached agencies and bureaus.

The IDC is the corruption prevention arm of the DOH. The Office of the Ombudsman represented by the Resident Ombudsman sits as a regular member together with the National Citizen’s Movement for Free Election (NAMFREL) and Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN).

The DOH-IDC, in its effort to advocate and institutionalize the anti-corruption campaign of the Department, conducted the first IDC Congress and convention to align, showcase best practices and assess the general output, outcome and impact of the initiated anti-corruption policies, control system and handling of cases against erring officials and employees of the DOH.

At the initiatives of Assistant Secretary Pauly Jean B. Rosell-Ubial, Chairperson of the DOH-IDC together with the other DOH-IDC members and in coordination with the Office of the Resident Ombudsman for DOH, the convention was realized with a good turn out of participants nationwide which made it a success. IDC representatives from the NCR, Re-

gional and Provincial areas made their presentations to highlight their accomplishments, best practices and initiatives, viz: CHD-CAR in complying with all issuances, guidelines, rules and regulations aimed at establishing an agency free of graft and corruption; CHD-CARAGA on their Internal Control Units in conducting Ocular Inspection in order to safeguard government expenditures; CHD-Eastern Visayas on their campaign against loafing; CHD-Davao Region on their success in partnering with the Local Government Units to foster transparency; Dr. Fabella Memorial Hospital on their efforts of posting tarpaulins containing DOH Memorandum Circular requiring hospitals to have a Registry Book of Gifts; Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center on their Moral Renewal Program which encouraged employees to participate in the Anti-Graft Campaign; CHD-Metro Manila in improving their Procurement System; CHD-CALABARZON in the establishment of their Public Assistance Desk; Adoption of Gift Policy, Implementation of PhilGeps in Procurement and Utilization of Biometrics in monitoring employees’ attendance; and Batangas Regional Hospital presented their “Kasambahay, KaPhilhealth Program” which aimed to ensure the universal coverage of domestic helpers/kasambahay by the Philhealth.

Aside from paper presentations, posters/tarpaulins of the IDC activities showcasing their good practices were also exhibited.

Plaques of Appreciation were awarded to former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Undersecretary David Lozada, Lydia P. Fernandez (former DOH Asst. Secretary) and Atty. Hilario A. Favila, Jr. (former Resident Ombudsman for DOH) in recognition

8-Point Agenda *from page 1*

Disposition of high-profile cases

Ombudsman Morales vowed to zero in on high-profile cases by prioritizing the disposition of complaints and cases against high-ranking officials, involving large sums of money, grand corruption cases, and celebrated or high-profile cases.

Ombudsman Morales stated that the Office of the Ombudsman “should not be satisfied in catching the ‘small fish,’ as it must go after the school of ‘big fish’ lurking in government offices.”

She explained that the Office of the Ombudsman shall effectively reduce the volume of non-priority complaints and cases - i.e., non-corruption cases, frivolous cases, and cases involving offenses committed not in relation to office - which may be coordinated with or referred to other forums or agencies upon the forging or renewal of Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding (MOAs/MOUs) with government agencies like the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Justice.

Zero backlog

To remedy the caseload of more than 11,000 pending criminal and administrative cases, Ombudsman Morales undertook to monitor the strict enforcement of the prescribed time frames under existing rules, which monitoring will be easily facilitated upon the full operation of the computerized and centralized Uniform Case Monitoring System early 2012. She added that cases involving retiring public officials and employees shall also be resolved with dispatch.

“Given the enormity of the workload, it seems like an impossible dream to set a goal of zero backlog, but a seven-year period is ahead of us. A good start is to gain ground in achieving it and, eventually, sustain that momentum,” she remarked. She added that zero backlog will depend on the collective efficiency of the entire human resources and the

effectiveness of the internal processes.

Ombudsman Morales revealed the plan of creating a Committee on Rules which will consolidate the Internal Rules and revise the Rules of Procedure of the Office of the Ombudsman. The Committee - to be comprised of Ombudsman officials, senior legal experts, and a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines - shall revisit and fill in any gap in the system and processes of the Office.

Improved “survival” rate of fact-finding

Under its third priority, the Office of the Ombudsman aims to enhance the quality of the initial stage of fact-finding or evidence-gathering following the standards of a fair, impartial and expeditious case build-up. Ombudsman Carpio Morales intends to train field investigators in specialized techniques like forensic engineering and forensic auditing.

One specific measure that the Office of the Ombudsman is looking at is the gradual integration of prosecutorial functions, where the trial prosecutors of the Office of the Special Prosecutor shall be involved in the preliminary investigation as members of investigating prosecution panels, while the graft investigation officers at the Central Office shall be involved in the trial of cases

before the Sandiganbayan as members of trial prosecution teams.

Enforced monitoring of referred cases

The Ombudsman also plans to institute a system of monitoring “referred complaints and cases” under Section 23(2) of the Ombudsman Act to ensure no unreasonable delay in the termination of the administrative proceedings.

She cites as instances the criminal cases referred by the Office of the Ombudsman to the Department of Justice for prosecution in the regular trial courts, which shall be monitored until their final disposition in court, and Ombudsman decisions in administrative cases that are eventually indorsed to the heads of concerned agencies for implementation of the administrative penalty, which shall be strictly monitored to ensure compliance therewith.

Improved responsiveness of public assistance

She also enjoined Ombudsman officials and employees to render meaningful, responsive, and relevant public assistance. According to Ombudsman Morales, a system for active handling of public feedback and redress of grievance shall be established to ensure compliance with this standard of public service

delivery. She directed the concerned action officer to take sufficient actions under existing rules to address the requests for assistance and cases referred for mediation.

Improved anti-corruption policy and program coordination among sectors

The Ombudsman maintained a three-pronged approach in the war against corruption: enforcement, prevention, and anti-corruption promotion. In devising a multi-sectoral strategy to mobilize the support of stakeholders, Ombudsman specifies that a review of guidelines in the accreditation of private entities as partners/units shall be made.

Rationalization of the functional structure

Ombudsman Carpio Morales reported that the selection process in the hiring of more than 100 lawyers - one of her first pronouncements during her first few days in office - is in full swing.

Under this seventh priority, the Ombudsman stated that the review of the existing functional structure of the Office is aimed at identifying gaps and overlaps in the discharge of various functions, rationalizing task assignment and division of work processes, and arriving at an accounting of personnel and

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Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales presents the Operational Definition of the Policy Thrust and 8-point priorities during the first day of the Pre-Planning Workshop on September 19, 2011.

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8-Point Agenda *from page 6*

other resources. She committed to adopt such structure, staffing pattern, systems, and procedures that are uniform in its central and area/sectoral offices.

Her initial assessments show that there are units or bureaus that are undermanned while some are over-manned, and the existing staffing pattern shows a drift towards the “career plateauing” at the middle management level. She warned that appropriate management action shall be taken against all non-performing officials and personnel.

Enhanced transparency and credibility

The Ombudsman vowed to observe transparency in all its dealings

with the public. She intends to review the existing policy on access to information regarding cases being investigated and prosecuted, and policies regulating personnel action and procurement activities. According to the Ombudsman, a comprehensive Communication Plan shall be adopted.

“In improving public perception, however, there is still no substitute to doing one’s job well,” she said.

O m b u d s m a n Morales, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, assumed office a day after President Benigno Aquino III announced her appointment during his State of the Nation Address on July 25, 2011.

DOH-IDC *from page 5*

of their invaluable support, contributions and hardwork for the implementation of the recommendations in the Integrity Development Action Plan and for various Anti-Graft and Corruption Prevention Programs of the Department of Health.

Invited to grace the occasion as resource persons were Secretary Enrique T. Ona, DOH; Asst. Commissioner Rogelio C. Limare, Civil Service Commission; Director Mary Susan S. Guillermo, Office of the Ombudsman; Fr. Albert Alejo, Ateneo de Zamboanga; Ma. Corazon Gomez, Commission on Audit; and Eric Jude Alvia, NAMFREL.

Fr. Albert Alejo gave his presentation with the theme “Tungo sa

Pagbabago: Integrity as a Way of Life.” Asst. Commissioner Limare delivered a talk on Progress Towards an Incorruptible Civil Servants and Ms. Gomez tackled Financial Integrity.

The program was highlighted by the messages of Undersecretary Lozada and Director Guillermo.

Undersecretary Lozada emphasized on the need to institutionalize change and reforms in the DOH through values orientation. He likewise recognized the important roles of the participants, being officers of their respective IDCs, in achieving these goals. Director Guillermo revisited the objective of the project Pursuing Reforms through Integrity Development Review (PRIDE) in the DOH which is to assist the Department in establishing a culture of professionalism and integrity. She also mentioned the importance of corruption prevention programs in enhancing organizational integrity and in rendering responsive public service. Finally, she praised the DOH for topping the

achievement level in the Integrity Development Assessment during the maiden run of the program with the other 10 agencies in the 2nd Cycle.

A Special Session with the Office of the Ombudsman and NAMFREL was held. Atty. Joebil B. Delmoro, Resident Ombudsman for DOH and NAMFREL Secretary General Mr. Eric Jude O. Alvia served as discussants. Atty. Delmoro shared some of the corruption prevention programs of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Various issues, concerns, problems and difficulties encountered by the different IDCs were raised and discussed during the open forum.

The 1st DOH Integrity Development Committee National Convention was a success as it inspired the participants to become involved in the implementation of the DOH Strategy of attaining quality health services for every one through the good governance aspect in relation to the general mandate and functions of the DOH, and truly become champions in the fight against graft and corruption.

JGU *from page 2*

DepEd Mandaluyong (Isaac Lopez Integrated School), *2nd Runner-up*: DepEd Parañaque (Parañaque Science HS); **Editorial Cartoon Competition: Champions**: DepEd Las Piñas (Las Piñas NHS) Francis Jayson Fabi, and DepEd Caloocan (Llano HS) Ma. Elena C. Defeo, *1st Runner-up*: DepEd Makati (Gen. Pio del Pilar NHS) Cedriane M. Ponce; **Chalk-Mural Competition: Champions**: DepEd Marikina and San Juan (Parang HS & San Juan NHS), *1st Runner-up*: DepEd Caloocan (Manuel L. Quezon HS, Llano HS, Sampaguita HS), *2nd Runner-up*: DepEd Las Piñas, Pasig and Malabon (Sta. Lucia HS, Pinagbuhatan HS, Panghulo NHS, Las Piñas North NHS).



ODO Orlando C. Casimiro leads the OMB officials & employees and the JGUs officers and advisers during the “Alay Lakad Kontra Korupsyon” at the QC Bikers Lane (top photo). DO Francis H. Jardeleza and AO Evelyn A. Baliton, assisted by OIC Rhodora N. Fenix-Galicia and Ms. Lourdes L. Estonanto, lead the ribbon cutting during the opening of the JGU photo exhibit at the OMB Tent.

OMB LEADS *from page 8*

ness and to oversee the implementation of the Operationalization Programme.”

The two-day seminar-workshop, which aims to increase awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises “that corruption is an unacceptable practice according to law,”

is set to be held in the first quarter of 2012.

The annual assembly of the Multi-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Council (MSACC) was also held in the same day. MSACC serves as the advisory and consultative body of the NACPA.

**Simulan ng kabataan
Ang gawang kabutihan,
Korapsyon ay labanan
Para sa magandang kinabukasan.**



Ombudsman leads Philippine commemoration of International Anti-Corruption Day

By Anna Maria S. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINES JOINS other United Nations-member countries in commemorating International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2011 through the signing of a covenant among all branches of government and private sector for a unified and vigorous effort against corruption.

The event was held at the Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales led the signing of the covenant together with the heads of the different branches of government: Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa for the Executive Department; Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile for the Senate; Speaker Feliciano R. Belmonte for the House of Representatives; Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez, and Sandigan-



OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES poses with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, House Speaker Feliciano R. Belmonte, other government officials and representatives from the NGOs after the signing of the Covenant to support the NACPA during the commemoration of International Anti-Corruption Day held at the Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La Manila on December 9, 2011.

bayan Presiding Justice Francisco H. Villaruz, Jr. for the Judiciary; Mr. Tan Ching, President of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. for the private sector; and Pura Sumangil, Chairperson of the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government and the

Northern Luzon Coalition for Good Governance for the civil society.

Under the Covenant of Support to the National Anti-Corruption Program of Action (NACPA), the parties commit to “come together and join hands in supporting an anti-corruption convergence process that will promote wide,

continuing, and effective participatory consultations among the various stakeholders against corruption and align all anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by government, civil society, and the private sector under a unified comprehensive strategic framework.”

Ombudsman Morales

also led the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of a Steering Committee to implement the Project on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Code of Conduct for Business with representatives from the government: Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry and Securities and Exchange Commission, and from the private sector: National Competitive Council, Women’s Business Council of the Philippines, and the Asian Institute of Management.

Under the said MOU, the parties “have agreed to join hands as a multi-sectoral Steering Committee to develop and implement the Philippine-proposed Seminar-Workshop for the Implementation of APEC Code of Conduct for Busi-

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OMB-Luzon welcomes litigator-professor Jardeleza as new Deputy Ombudsman

By Melissa Christina S. Santos

RECOGNIZED LAWYER and Constitutional Law professor Francis H. Jardeleza becomes the 5th Deputy Ombudsman (DO) for Luzon after earning the nomination of the Judicial and Bar Council and subsequent appointment by President Benigno S. Aquino, III on 8 July 2011.

DO Jardeleza is in the process of learning the internal systems of the office. His present concern is to help in the ongoing discussions on new strategic direction in order to support the priorities of the new Ombudsman, Justice Conchita Carpio Morales.

A native of Jaro, Iloilo City, DO Jardeleza was an outstanding graduate of UP Iloilo where he earned his degree in Political Science. He also graduated salutatorian and cum laude at the University of the Philippines Col-

lege of Law (UP Law) in Diliman, Quezon City in 1974. He placed third in the 1974 Bar exams with an average of 88.35%.

In 1977, DO Jardeleza obtained his Master of Laws degree at Harvard Law School in Massachusetts, U.S.A. In the same year, he was admitted to the New York State Bar and the US Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

DO Jardeleza began his career in litigation when he joined the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (ACCRALAW) in 1975 and became the law firm’s partner in 1981. He later went on to become Chairman of ACCRALAW’s litigation department.

In 1987, DO Jardeleza founded Jardeleza Sobreviñas Diaz Hayudini and Bodegon, engaging in the practice of labor law. In

1990, he went on solo practice after which, he joined Roco Buñag Kapunan Migallos and Jardeleza, as partner, heading its labor and litigation practice.

From 1996 to 2010, DO Jardeleza was Senior Vice President and General Counsel of San Miguel Corporation for which he handled labor cases, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, securities, intellectual property and corporate governance.

Throughout his career as litigator and corporate lawyer, DO Jardeleza has handled pro bono cases, argued before the Supreme Court on constitutional law issues, and sat on the board of local and foreign corporations.

A UP Law professorial lecturer since 1993, DO Jardeleza has taught Civil Procedure, Administrative Law, and Constitutional Law. He also lectured on Commercial Law at the UP Law Center. He is a trustee of the U.P. Law

Alumni Foundation, and a member of the U.P. Law Centennial Commission. He is also an active alumnus of UP Visayas.

DO Jardeleza is married to Atty. Concepcion L. Jardeleza, herself an accomplished academican and a Law

Reform Specialist. She is also a long time professorial lecturer and newly appointed Associate Dean of UP Law. They have three children: Atty. Ma. Carmen, Francis Albert, Jr. and Ma. Teresa who has just recently joined the office as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Ombudsman.



Atty. FRANCIS H. JARDELEZA takes his oath as the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon before Justice Cielito Mendaro-Grulla of the Court of Tax Appeals. Witnessing the ceremony are his wife, Atty. Concepcion and daughter, Ma. Teresa.