

**PAPER ON
THE ROLE OF PAGC IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
WITH EMPHASIS ON
COMPLAINTS HANDLING MECHANISM IN PAGC
for the Anti-Corruption Road show led by
Transparency and Accountability Network
With support from
The Asia Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development
in cooperation with the
Coalition Against Corruption, World Bank Knowledge Development Centers,
People's Graftwatch of Iloilo, Inc. and Coalition of Development NGOs, Iloilo
Renewal House, La Paz, Iloilo City
24 – 26 July 2007
by
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Esteemed anti-corruption leaders and crusaders, our allies in this renewed fight against graft and corruption, a pleasant afternoon! It is a reality that **no government is spared from the sting of corruption. In our country, the **trigger points** of this malaise would include the effects of the **508 years of our historical experiences from the hands of our colonizers and dictatorial ruler, each of which had marked practices that have been institutionalized in the country's systems and processes and some imbibed by the citizenry.** Billions of pesos have likewise been reported to have been lost due to graft and corruption – billions of pesos which could have made a difference in the lives of those in need had those been used for social services and other projects geared for the good of the greater majority.**

This tells us one thing – that controlling corruption is critical to economic development. Because of this, **corruption has become the most serious governance challenge of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.** This signaled the urgency of the problem and the resolve of the President to do something about it so that from day one of her assumption to office, as President of this country in January 2001, **the fight against graft and corruption through a platform of good governance has become one of the pillars upon which her administration is founded.** We have seen her worked diligently, to ensure that we, and the rest of the Filipino people, are getting the professional and clean government that we deserve. Several **initiatives to counter corruption** and all its pernicious effects have been launched under her administration – these included **administrative measures, legislative action, and greater people participation - like the lifestyle checks, procedural reforms aimed at cutting red tape in government transactions, aggressive prosecution against officials suspected of having enriched themselves through illegal means, tying up with the other stakeholders – the civil society organizations, the faith – based ones, the members of the academe, the business community and even international donor organizations, among others.**

But we all know that **fighting corruption has never been, is not, and will never be an easy task. Fighting corruption takes time.** This will address everyone's query on the link between the commitment to curb corruption and the reported level of corruption per survey results – which unfortunately are all perception – based – meaning, based on what one hears or reads and not necessarily a reflection of the real situation on the ground and not linked to anti corruption efforts or actual programs and measures in place. The **President** said (used to emphasize): **“We cannot fight graft and corruption overnight”, that: “it is not like Saint Michael slaying the dragon with one swing of the sword”. Fighting corruption, she said, “is like healing an infected wound that must be constantly cleansed and disinfected”** - And she vowed that she won't stop until the **“culture of corruption”** is vanished. There is a **need to change the orientation of the people running the system.** The down payment made on anti-corruption can gradually lead to the **fundamental reforms**, if we work hard enough **on governance reforms – the kind requiring an integrated approach – the need to consider best practices of other countries in their anti-corruption efforts – the need to work together with every member of the society –**

the need for a strong networking with the other stakeholders – just like what we are having right now..

The President meant, means and will always mean business in this endeavor. And to help her meet her objectives on this area, she created through Executive Order No. 12, in April 2001, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission or PAGC.

PAGC serves as her arm in this fight directly addressing allegations of violations of provisions of graft and corruption – related laws and other issuances by her own Presidential Appointees in the bureaucracy. At that time, PAGC’s role has been seen as something that is focused on the traditional method of fighting graft and corruption, that is through investigation of reported omissions by officials under its jurisdiction – that is, the Presidential Appointees with Salary Grade 26 and above or those better known as Assistant Regional or Bureau Directors, Directors, the Assistant Secretaries, Undersecretaries, the Cabinet Secretaries themselves, or those with equivalent ranks, the Heads of Government Owned and Controlled Corporations and Government Financing Institutions, and even Presidents of State Colleges and Universities.

Taking a look at how the anti corruption programs were vis a vis objectives set, the President, in 2004, saw the need to revisit the strategies adopted to fight graft and corruption and has directed a more focused means, an intensified manner of addressing the problem by adopting the successful three pronged approach as applied in Hong Kong by the Independent Commission Against Corruption or ICAC. Thus, in the 2004 to 2010 Medium Term Philippine Development Plan under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, this three pronged strategy was highlighted. For the first time in the history of the Philippines, a full chapter on Anti Corruption was incorporated in the MTPDP which serves as the blueprint upon which every single activity of all offices in the whole country are anchored on. A quick look of what Chapter 21 is all about gives us the following snapshots:

Chapter 21 of the MTPDP, that is on Anti-Corruption, specifically stresses three areas of reforms on anticorruption efforts which are:

- a) punitive measures that include effective enforcement of anti-corruption laws; enforcement mechanisms within revenue generating agencies; lifestyle check and other programs**

- b) preventive measures that include strengthening of anti-corruption laws; improvement of integrity systems; improvement of systems and controls**
- c) and, promotion of zero tolerance for corruption through societal values formation and active participation and involvement of the public in the fight against corruption**

And aside from this focus, the next Chapter, Chapter 22 of the MTPDP is on Bureaucratic Reforms which highlights the following thrust:

“To improve the quality and efficiency of public service, the government shall adopt institutional improvements in the bureaucracy...”

This called for a paradigm shift on PAGC’s work, which as I shared earlier, merely contributed to the disciplining of corruption offenders. Although catching and prosecuting offenders are necessary, it is not sufficient in eradicating corruption. Simultaneous interventions, in adjusting the system to minimize if not at all prevent opportunities for corruption, are equally important.

At the same time, an environment supportive of anti-corruption efforts can only be sustained by educating the public on corruption, which includes the various measures being implemented and initiated by the government, as well as by forming people's values leading to a real change in attitude and behavior.

As a direct response to these challenges, **PAGC was strengthened through a number of measures directed towards its professionalization.** This started by **crafting its own roadmap anchored on the MTPDP thrusts.** The result being **PAGC's Vision, Mission, and Goals** which we have been sharing to the rest of the offices covered by our jurisdiction. And these are:

“A Graft and Corrupt-Free Philippines characterized by transparency and accountability in governance, honesty and integrity in the bureaucracy in a corruption intolerant society”
for the vision

And for the **Mission**, we say:

“To be the President's arm in eradicating graft and corruption through effective Deterrence, Prevention and Education in partnership with all stakeholders”

For the Goals, we have:

Under Deterrence (investigation/enforcement) – “to make graft and corruption a high-risk, low-reward activity”

Under Prevention – “to minimize opportunities for graft and corruption and ensure that systems of agencies are corruption-resistant”

For Education – “To promote corruption-intolerant society by raising awareness that mobilizes citizenry and by disseminating good citizenship values and institutionalizing the code of ethics in agencies”

We likewise added a fourth strategy, that is, strategic partnership which cuts across each of the three-pronged strategies of investigation, prevention and education.

Once set, we checked on our internal capacities and capabilities by ensuring that only those capable of providing positive contribution to the fight and directly address the challenges posed by the set vision, mission and goals are made part of the PAGC manpower complement. That was a radical and a very painful decision but had to be implemented.

So that – in two and a half months’ time – almost 30 personnel had to be issued the pre-termination and non – renewal of respective contracts of services. Applicants had to go through a very rigid process to check on integrity and commitment levels.

PAGC also saw the need to go heavy on advocacy (education) and media campaign to respond to the worsening level of perception on corruption

Then, in December 2004, PAGC spearheaded the conduct of a three-day unprecedented Presidential Anti Corruption Workshop to craft the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) which talks about agency-specific measurable initiatives and action plans towards improving images of respective agencies attended by over a hundred top officials from more than 40 government departments and offices.

These agency plans and department commitments, served as an integrity pact between the President and the Agency Heads, to ensure implementation of the same starting January 2005.

The 22 doables are:

On the area of Prevention, we have 7:

- 1. strengthening of internal control through the institutionalization of internal audit service**
- 2. conduct of Integrity Development Review or IDR in 5 agencies**
- 3. fast tracking of the electronic New Government Accounting System and electronic bidding for the procurement of goods, services and infrastructure projects**
- 4. incorporating integrity check in recruitment and promotion of government personnel**
- 5. institutionalization of a multi-stakeholder personnel and organizational performance evaluation system**
- 6. protection of meager income of government employees by ensuring a level for take home pay**
- 7. adoption of a single ID system for government officials and employees.**

We have four for the Education Strategies,

- 1. dissemination of compendium of anticorruption laws, rules and regulations**
- 2. preparation of agency-specific code of ethical standards**

- 3. conduct of ethics training, spiritual formation, and moral recovery program for agencies and stakeholders**
- 4. integration of anti-corruption modules for elementary and secondary levels.**

On deterrence or investigation and enforcement, we have seven:

- 1. development of agency Internal Complaint Unit (including the protection of whistleblowers).**
- 2. setting up/strengthening of agency Internal Affairs Unit.**
- 3. publish blacklisted offenders and maintain on-line central database for public access**
- 4. holding superiors accountable for corrupt activities of subordinates**
- 5. effective use of existing agency administrative disciplinary machinery and publication of results of administrative cases handled**
- 6. advocacy for the submission of Income Tax Returns as attachment to the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth**
- 7. PAGC's carrying out of an independent survey to check anti-graft and corruption program effectiveness**

And on Strategic Partnership, we have four:

- 1. linking of existing databases of complementary agencies and sharing of information**
- 2. need to enlist or enhance participation of private sector and civil society in various areas of governance**
- 3. need to tap international development agencies and private sector for support**
- 4. institutionalization of the participation of stakeholders in agency activities**

Many lessons on best practices can be derived here and these are shared between and among the IDAP focal persons during the regular sessions that PAGC conducted to help others improve on their performance level.

Some of the best practices point to: planning what needs to be done and who shall be asked to do the tasks, capturing agreements, decisions taken, action plans, timelines, and the like, in written form, disseminating information to the rest of the public officials and employees in their respective offices and taking time to bring reforms for their regional or provincial offices.

The reasons cited for failure to register improvements in ratings include failure of the IDAP designated focal person/s to report to their respective superiors – not even the Department’s Secretary is given updates on IDAP, targets and accomplishment reports are personally set/prepared by the focal person hence no action has ever been taken by the Department,

To date 120 agencies (including bureaus, attached agencies and regional offices) are already implementing the IDAP. In January 2005, when we started this program, we only had 39 offices. We are continuously working to ensure the implementation of the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) in all offices nationwide and to sustain its implementation beyond 2010. One of the strategies we have come up with to achieve this is to go down to the regions and touch base with the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) which can be our allies in ensuring that IDAP implementation and sustainability is made part of the RDCs regular projects. RDCs and other allies will not find it hard to check on IDAP covered offices’ progress as the 22 doables are measured and monitored based on very specific indicators (with 5-point rating scale).

The indicators are the result of an agreement arrived at by the representatives of the various IDAP-participating agencies during the IDAP-indicators workshop in June 2005. The ratings comprise two groups – the most compliant in terms of implementation and the least compliant ones – and announcement of performance levels are done semi-annually in one of the scheduled cabinet meetings.

On the investigation component, which is actually the core function of PAGC, the Commission's investigators were sent to trainings and made to attend short term courses on field investigation, advanced fraud audit techniques, public corruption and ethics, and even internal controls. Investigators were guided to ensure credible case build-up per case with a given standard timeframe of 90 days with extension to be considered depending on the type and nature of the cases. We established a database of Personal Data Sheets, Sworn Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth and appointment papers of presidential appointees (PAs) from various agencies so that we no longer have to subpoena these documents when a particular PA has been a subject of a complaint --- to avoid getting the subject alarmed on any PAGC investigation being conducted on him or her.

Through the assistance of USAID, we designed a Complaints and Case Management Manual of Operations. This manual aims to be a quick and ready reference for technical and support staff responsible for the tracking, monitoring of cases and investigation and enforcement of the laws administered by the Commission. Hence, transfer of technology and phasing in of new investigators is easier. With this manual is an Excel programmed case monitoring and document-tracking system to ensure that all incoming documents are acted upon within the required period and to ensure that all cases are acted upon and moving.

We employed a “shame-campaign” by reporting to the public, thru press conferences and press releases, offenders with cases that have punitive recommendations. This include sanctions involving dismissal from service with forfeiture of benefits, cancellation of civil service eligibility and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.. This campaign promotes corruption as a high-risk, low reward activity.

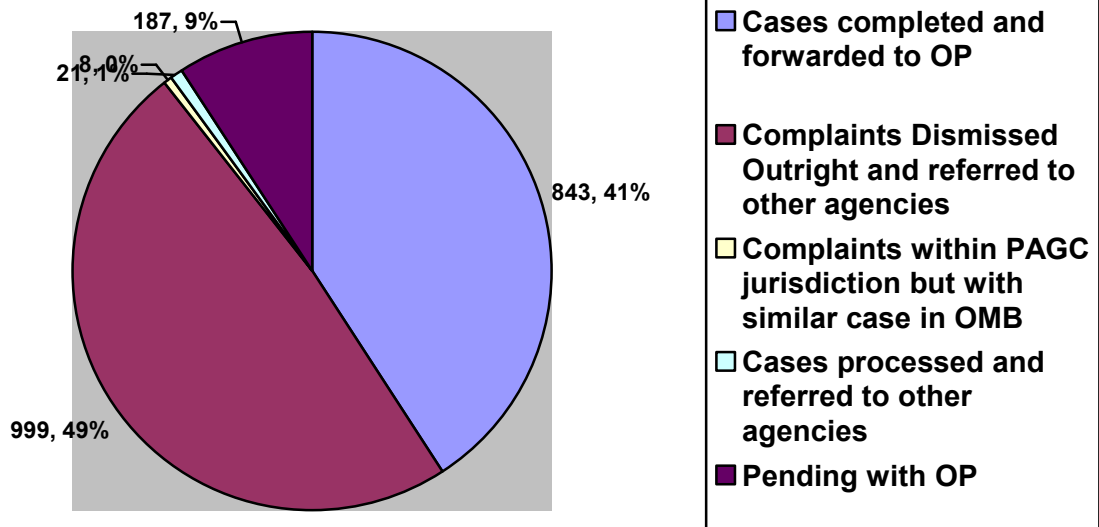
At this point, I would like to share with you PAGC’s share in addressing corruption through the investigation approach from the time of its creation in 2001 up to last Friday.

PAGC has processed a total of 2,058 complaints against alleged erring public officials from 2001 to 19 July 2007. From these 2,058 complaints, 843 complaints against Presidential Appointees/Officials nominated by the President prospered into cases, were investigated, resolved and forwarded to the Office of the President for final resolution.

134 of these 843 cases carried punitive recommendations (penalty of dismissal from service with accessory penalties, suspension or reprimand);

- 2001 – 19 July 2007**
 - Resolved cases – 843**
 - Complaints endorsed to OMB and other agencies for lack of jurisdiction – 999**
 - Complaints forwarded to OMB because a similar case is already pending before it – 8**
 - Cases processed but later determination proved that the same were not within PAGC jurisdiction hence referred to OMB or other agencies – 21**
 - Cases pending before PAGC – 187**

total : 2,058



➤ From among the 843 cases completed and forwarded to OP 74 of which were investigated motu proprio (45 with punitive & 29 with non-punitive recommendations).

Sanctioned Officials

Year	Dismissal from Service with Accessory Penalties	Suspension	Reprimand	Accessory Penalties
2001	3	1	1	0
2002	7	3	0	0
2003	5	2	0	1
2004	4	1	1	1
2005	1	0	0	0
2006	11	5	1	0
19 Jul 2007	3	0	0	0
Total	34	12	3	2

Among those meted with punishment of dismissal from government service with cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of leave credits and retirement benefits, and disqualification for reemployment in the government service include:

- Head of Agencies/ General Manager/Administrator/ Chairman - 7
- Commissioner/ Undersecretary - 3
- Assistant Secretary - 2
- Executive Director/ Director/ Regional Director/ Regional Adjudicator – 18
- Asst. Regional Director/ Asst. City Prosecutor – 4

Among those meted with punishment of suspension include:

- Administrator – 2
- Undersecretary - 1
- Schools Division Superintendent - 2
- Director – 5
- Labor Arbiter – 1
- Asst. Prosecutor – 1

Among those meted with punishment of reprimand include:

- Director/ Regional Executive Director – 1
- Other officials – 2

Among those meted with punishment of accessory penalties include:

- Head of agency - 1
- Director - 1

Another first in PAGC's manner of addressing the problem is the setting up of its **website, wherein the public could read the press releases on these sanctioned officials as well as file complaints to PAGC. Our website is: pagc.gov.ph**

We also use the short messaging system or SMS to encourage anyone who has knowledge of abuses by public officials covered by our jurisdiction to immediately relay to PAGC relevant information on the matter. We use 0917 TXT PAGC.

We also forged partnerships with other government agencies, CSOs and stakeholders to increase the number of cases filed against abusive public servants. Some of these agreements include:

- **Partnership with the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) and the Coalition Against Corruption (CAC) for these CSOs to provide qualified volunteers to PAGC in its lifestyle check crusade against erring officials and employees in all government agencies, departments, and instrumentalities**
- **MOA with 10 select agencies which were challenged by the President to file at least 1 case per quarter involving a “big fish” to PAGC or to OMB.**
- **MOA with the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption or VACC for their volunteers to act as informants particularly in lifestyle check cases.**

- MOA with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLAC) to strengthen investigative processes to ensure air tight cases that would warrant affirmation of recommendations with sanctions

Then, in 2005, Executive Order No. 12 was amended by by E.O. 531 and this new development served as a catalyst towards attainment of PAGC's vision of a graft and corruption-free Philippines. This practically expanded PAGC's mandate and strengthened its position as an anti corruption body specially as regards other areas critical to the attainment of its set goals and objectives anchored on the MTPDP thrusts.

E.O. 531 paved the way for the inclusion in PAGC's jurisdiction E.O. 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987 which carries the sanctions for violations of R.A. 6713 or the Code of Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees. It has given PAGC the legal basis for the exercise of oversight function over the offices under the executive branch as regards anti-corruption programs. It has clothed PAGC the power to file cases (criminal) of erring officials before the Office of the Ombudsman or Department of Justice.

Even private individuals can now be covered by PAGC investigation if found to have conspired with presidential appointees. Criminal charges or complaints against erring public officers or employees who refuse to comply with the summons or subpoena issued by PAGC can now be undertaken. PAGC, as it is now, can investigate, receive, gather and evaluate evidence, on complaint or motu proprio, and concurrent with the Office of the Ombudsman, against:

a) all Presidential appointees in the Executive Branch of the government and any of its agencies or instrumentalities occupying the position of Assistant Regional Director or an equivalent rank, and higher, otherwise classified as Salary Grade “26” and higher under RA 6758 – this time, whenever the President directs the PAGC to cover members of the military and the Philippine National Police (PNP) which were earlier excluded in E.O. 12, PAGC can legally do so.

b) Members of the governing board of any instrumentality, regulatory agency, chartered institution, and directors or officers appointed or nominated by the President to government-owned or controlled corporations or corporations where the government has a minority interest, or who otherwise represent the interest of the government referred to as “covered Presidential appointees”

c) Other public officers and employees, and private persons in conspiracy or connivance with covered Presidential appointees

The acts or omissions covered include violations of any of the following:

- 1. RA 3019 – Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act**
- 2. RA 1379 – Unlawful acquisitions of property by a public officer or employee**
- 3. RA 6713 – Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees**
- 4. Any provisions under Title Seven, Book Two of Revised Penal Code**
- 5. Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987 – Administrative Code of 1987, whenever it defines and imposes administrative sanctions on acts and omissions constituting violations of the foregoing laws and issuances**
- 6. Rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority to implement any of the foregoing laws and issuances**
- 7. Other violations as may be referred to the Commission by the President of the Philippines**

For the Powers and Functions:

a) Enlist the aid and support of any law enforcement agency of the government in the exercise of its functions. It may also call upon all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations for assistance, whether for acquisition of documents pertinent to its investigation or to participate in the investigation itself.

b) Have the authority, either on complaint or motu proprio, administratively adjudicate all cases falling within its jurisdiction upon sufficient cause.

c) Upon the filing of a complaint or charge, recommend to the President or the Executive Secretary the issuance of an order of preventive suspension against covered Presidential appointees, when the circumstances of the investigation warrant the same, as when the charges are punishable with removal from the service or when the respondent's continued stay in office would prejudice the fair determination of the case.

d) Use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts in each case or complaint speedily and objectively.

- e) After due investigation, file the appropriate criminal complaints with the Office of the Ombudsman or the Department of Justice, or otherwise refer cases for the appropriate actions of any such offices or other appropriate Constitutional Commissions or government units, including government-owned or controlled corporations**
- f) Formulate national anti-corruption plans and strategies pursuant to the Medium-Term Development Plan of the Arroyo administration, and cause the efficient and effective implementation of such plans and strategies.**
- g) Engage the services of qualified consultants and/or deputies from the public and private sectors**
- h) Oversee the implementation and compliance by all agencies, instrumentalities and offices in the Executive Branch with all anti-graft and corruption laws and issuances and integrity development plans**
- i) Do advocacy work to encourage public participation in the government's anti-corruption efforts**
- j) Recommend issuance/adoption of appropriate policies that would strengthen anti-corruption efforts and hasten the arrest and prosecution of corrupt government officers and employees, including private persons conspiring with them**

PAGC has likewise been clothed with the authority to Summon Government Personnel and has provided very specific actions that can be done as an effect of Non-Compliance with Summons – thus, providing that any unreasonable delay or refusal to comply shall constitute a ground for administrative disciplinary action c/o PAGC, CSC, or regular courts/other appropriate tribunals. PAGC is also authorized to administer Oaths

This major shift in the anti-corruption strategy is not only documented on paper, but is even backed-up by additional funding as President Arroyo on 19 June 2006 announced the allotment of a Php1 billion fund to cover the various anti-corruption projects of the Executive Department with PAGC at the helm to ensure efficient coordination of efforts. Some of these anticorruption programs include the roll out of the Integrity Development Action Plan or IDAP in all agencies nationwide, focusing on projects and activities heavy on systems improvement, on values formation, moral recovery, capability building for investigators to ensure air tight cases, and shall likewise cover high impact anti illegal drugs campaign and other equally directly responsive projects for the next two years.

The priority projects on a per agency beneficiary include:

- 1) PDEA – which is given P407.0 million for its project on the “Strengthening of PDEA and Integrity/Accountability Development Program,” which aims to have an Increase in the number of successful operations and prosecution of drug cases, Increase public trust in drug law enforcement and public participation in the anti-drug campaign, and to have No PDEA agent involved in any irregularities. Aside from **capacity building of the agency as a whole**, included in the project package are the following:**

- + construction of evidence storage and destruction facilities,**
- + establishment of information systems enhancement program,**
- + activation of the PDEA Operation “Private Eye” Reward Committee and Court Watch Project**

- 2). **BIR with a share amounting to P153.0 million to help fast track implementation of projects under its RATE's or Run After Tax Evaders' program.**

the desired outcomes of BIR's anti-corruption project include: a strong system of internal control, improved risk identification and risk management, increased number of quality and timely audits and audit reports released to serve as an effective management tool, improved proficiency in graft detection and prevention, reduced incidence of violations of administrative policies and controls, increased productivity of the investigators and hearing officers, increased transparency and accountability of Investigating and Hearing Officers, and efficient and effective prosecution of tax evasion cases.

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- 3.) **BOC is given P105 million for its project on “Enhancing Integrity in Customs”. The committed deliverables of the BOC on this are the following:**

Improvement in the capacity and strengthening of capability of the Legal Service in handling cases under the RATS or Run After The Smugglers program and corollary projects financed under the Millennium Challenge Account Program for the Philippines; improvement of the auction and cargo disposal process and development of operations manual to make day to day operations less vulnerable to corruption risks, thereby resulting in an increased revenues from auction proceedings in all ports by not less than 20%; operationalization of the BOC training center to lower training costs and provide extensive training and development programs for customs personnel to improve capacity, competency and integrity; strengthen capability of the Internal Control Office to improve processes and systems based on results of audits; and to come out with a BOC Communication Plan to enable the Bureau to consistently inform its stakeholders of the Bureau's initiatives on anti-corruption, with the end view of helping reverse the negative perception not because of sanitized reports but by cascading to every single individual positive and real developments in all transactions.

- 4) PCVF or the Presidential Council for Values Formation is given P60.5 million- its project, “Fighting Corruption thru Values Formation” aims to establish a sustainable, programmatic values formation program in government, and increase support of private sector and civil society for government values program and reform initiatives**

- 5) PNP or the Philippine National Police gets P37.0 million for their PNP Anti-Kotong Project which aims to: charge erring personnel, prevent occurrence of “kotong”, widen the capability of the system to accommodate complaints, and improved skills in handling cases and increase in conviction rate**

The balance of over P200.0 million is administered by PAGC for the projects earlier presented and for all other projects that need to be done as an offshoot of the current programs being implemented. Part of the budget shall likewise be used to further improve the Commission’s investigative capacity and to upgrade its hearing and training facilities.

Aside from these well funded anti-corruption programs, PAGC has other initiatives that contribute to the fight. These are:

1. The Grant from the Institutional Development Fund from World Bank amounting to US\$ 300,000. This project on Strengthening of Internal Audit Units for Effective Procurement Monitoring and Enforcement has the following desired outcomes:

- Internal Audit Service units established and operational in more agencies and LGUs resulting to reduced corruption**
- Quality internal audit; satisfactory implementation of the IA function in selected agencies**
- Sustainable and appropriate training program for internal auditors**

Project beneficiaries initially would come from 15 pilot agencies, 10 representing the National Government Agencies, 2 for the Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, and 3 are from the Local Government Units. These are:

For the NGAs: DPWH, DOH, DEPED, DND-AFP, DILG, DA, DBM-PS, DSWD, DOF, DOTC

For the GOCCs: Land Bank of the Philippines and NAPOCOR

For the LGUs: Province of Bulacan, City of Marikina and Municipality of Cainta

- 2) We also initiated the conduct of a Graduate Certificate Course on Corruption Prevention. This is being done in partnership with USAID-ROLE and is being pilot tested at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). It aims to provide professionals the necessary skills and knowledge, and prompt attitudinal change to implement corruption prevention reforms within their organizations/agencies. The course is a learner-centered approach, wherein students will be tasked to find solutions for actual problems presented to them. Several workshops and small group discussions are integrated throughout the duration of the program. Knowledge of the theory is applied in the practical exercises and in the culminating project – Corruption Prevention Action Project (CPAP) which are project plans for implementation in a participant’s agency. These plans are linked to the Integrity Development Action Plans committed by the agencies in December 2004 and monitored by the Commission. The pilot class will graduate end of July 2007.**

Apart from PAGC, the students came from the following pilot agencies:

- 1) Department of Education**
- 2) Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
- 3) Department of the Interior and Local Government**
- 4) Department of Health**
- 5) Department of Public Works and Highways**
- 6) Department of Social Welfare and Development**
- 7) Bureau of Customs**
- 8) Philippine National Police**
- 9) Land Registration Authority**
- 10) National Anti-Poverty Commission**

These are just some of the milestones that the government's anti-corruption program has delivered. We know that these accomplishments will not materialize if not for the right formula that we adopted – the **key strategy to ensure success in fighting this malaise – this cancer of the society called graft and corruption.**

And this strategy is no other than the formula of collaboration!

The past experiences really showed and is still showing that unity works and produce results. There is indeed a need to reach out to others, to all sectors of the society, in pursuing a concerted effort to address the problem of graft and corruption – and the time is now...as never in our history had we seen the level of political will from the highest official of the land and a rising tide of public and private sector initiatives and cooperative efforts to fight corruption.

Indeed, a lot has been done and accomplished, but we need to do more....

Let us get involved...

We have identified initial areas of possible cooperation with your group.

These are:

Activity/Project	CSO Role
1) Investigation of corruption cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Report observed irregularities and anomalies and state verifiable leads.- PAGC new rules of procedure protects whistleblowers by ensuring that PAGC is the nominal complainant should the case prosper into a full-blown case, the name of the complainant will not appear in the case records. Should this still be uncomfortable, PAGC entertains anonymous complaints as long as the allegations contained therein could be validated

Activity/Project	CSO Role
<p>2) Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report to PAGC if agencies that are supposed to implement the IDAP are still problematic or if positive changes are already being felt in the covered agencies (list of IDAP-covered agencies will be distributed to serve as reference)
<p>3) Graduate Certificate Course on Corruption Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the KDCs or academic institutions can also offer the course in their respective localities so that government officials in the region can also enroll in the course. - PAGC could provide a soft-copy of the modules upon request. Feedback on implementation and results of carrying out the course for PAGC's monitoring shall be appreciated
<p>4) Anti-corruption Scorecard - aims to measure the impact and effectiveness of anti-corruption reforms, with special focus on the IDAP.</p> <p>Target completion: July 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serve as an independent rater (rate the performance of the agency based on the parameters provided in the scorecard)
<p>5) Integrity Development Review roll-out</p> <p>Target run: Aug 2007 - March 2008 (8 agencies)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serve as external assessors to an agency wherein a congenial partnership had already been established, like the case of DOH and Namfrel Note: Assignment of CSO will also depend on the approval of the agency being subjected to IDR - Serve as a member of the Integrity Committee to be established after the IDR
<p>6) Roll out of the Institutional Spirituality Quotient (ISQ)</p> <p>Target run: 1st semester 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide inputs after presentation
<p>7) Anti-corruption fight in general</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAGC welcomes inputs and suggestions on how we could further improve our strategies in the fight against graft and corruption at the same time PAGC would like to seek the cooperation of the CSOs in advocating the reforms being implemented in the bureaucracy to help counter the negative perception of the public

Of course there would still be other areas of collaboration that we could efficiently and effectively handle together. But as of the present time, these are the initial concerns that we have identified as key areas of immediate partnership. And I would like to share with you, that these issues and the extent of work already spent in developing strategies to ensure implementation of these programs have indeed been considered blessings – for years ago, it would indeed be very hard to even think of the possibility of these things happening as they are happening these days. Who would ever think, years ago, that events like this one, where we share a firm resolve to bond together to fight graft and corruption – will ever happen.

And on this, I would like to end my talk by sharing with you, what **Frederic Flach once said, and this is:**

“Whether by accident or design, there are the moments when, because of a readiness within us and a collaboration with events occurring around us, we are forced to seriously reappraise ourselves and the conditions under which we live and to make certain choices that will affect the rest of our lives.”

So that today, I enjoin everyone to seize this opportunity – for even though we are coming from different sectors with different perspectives, let us all work together towards a graft and corruption free Philippines - . Let convergence happen. And let us do it NOW!

May our Creator continuously bless all our undertakings as we do all these for the greater glory of HIS name.

Thank you at Mabuhay po tayong lahat.