

“Break the Corruption Chain: The Philippine Anti-Corruption Initiatives”

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Abstract:- Every government seeks to build a public service having the value of excellence and with integrity. Thus, every government should wish to constantly maintains the standard of “a public office is a public trust,” for that being said, they started various programs or initiatives specifically to curb or combat the problem of corruption in our society and encourage good governance and public trust. This study wants to assess the implementation and monitoring of the different anti-corruption initiatives to promote good governance and enhance public trust. The problem being investigated is the effort of the Philippine Government in the implementation, and monitoring of different anti-corruption initiatives. Expressly, it ought to collect particular answer to the following question: (1) What is the status of the anti-corruption initiatives of the Philippine Government in terms of: 1.1. Implementation; and 1.2. Monitoring. The methodology used was a qualitative research. 10 respondents were chosen from the Philippine civil service commission. A semi-structured interview was utilized. The findings of the study show that the commission is continuously improving its procedure and conducting surprise visit to its satellite office to ensure the public trust, also these anti-corruption initiatives are being monitored to give an assurance to the public that they continuously provide quality, effective, and efficient public service to everyone.

Keywords:- Implementation, Monitoring, Anti-Corruption Initiatives, Corruption.

I. INTRODUCTION

Clearness, responsibility and honesty are significant formative factors aimed at maintainable expansion. At the international level, one hundred forty (140) countries that partake and engaged to the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption (UNCAC), and nearby stand to the frequent practices from all portions of the world to combat dishonesty. Dishonesty is one of the key difficulties for sustainable advancement. Corruption and deficiency of the clearness in community profits plus expenditure undercut deficiency mitigation determinations and autonomous involvement. The community belongings be there wasted instead of being utilized towards encourage maintainable expansion for altogether (Asian Development Bank - ADB, 2016).

According to Asian Development Bank (2016), the World Bank has appraised that inducement on its own is estimate the world one (1) trillion US bucks annually. Corruption generates lawful ambiguity. Through expanding charges, it hinders the expansion of the private institutions, misrepresents opposition, plus discourages stockholders. Corruption deteriorates partisan organizations then eventually questioned the lawfulness of the government. Underprivileged portion of the populace, predominantly the ladies and minors, are worst hit. Correspondingly, Corruption in the administration always a constant difficulty, according to Marcelo, (n.d) one of the four (4) advisers of the World Bank’s President on upright governance plus anti-corruption, not alone to emerging nations but also of industrialized nations. Thus, corruption is habitually further extensive and engrained in developing nations. In emerging nations, separately from its instantaneous outcome to the inadequate possessions of the administration, corruption plants a penetrating contrary bearing in the honesty and capability of the administration in improving underprivileged.

Based to the World Bank and Transparency International, corruption is the “misapplication of public offices for personal use.” (Sapanjeet Kaur, “E-Governance-Impact on Corruption”, available at <http://www.researchmanuscripts.com/isociety2012/47.pdf>.) The same definition was provided by Professor Susan Rose – Akerman:

“Dishonesty is an indication that there is roughly incorrect in the administration of the government or the government. Institutions calculated to govern the inter-connections concerning the civilian and the government is utilized in its place aimed at particular enhancement also the establishment of assistances to the dishonest. The expense instrument, habitually the cause of monetary competence and a provider to the development, in the custom of corruption, challenges, legality and usefulness of administration.” (R.D. Pathak, “The Part of EGovernance in Undertaking Corruption and Achieving Societal Harmony: Indian Experience”, this can be obtain at http://www.napsipag.org/pdf/tackling_corruption.pdf

The Philippines strengthened its abilities and capabilities to the restriction of corruption to develops the public confidence and conviction to their administration. Correspondingly, the public view this operation evaluation cluster conference as a significant occasion to discuss things with and learn from colleague Member-States with regards to their upright initiatives which are related to their

administration's push to shape a beliefs of truthfulness all through the administration.

Currently, the Philippines has directed two (2) inter-bureaus continuation of their programs on Chapters 3 and 4 centred on the Republic Review Statement for the initial sequence. Meanwhile, a quantity of procedures to expand submission with the UNCAC have similarly been executed by the Philippines, like the creation of Republic Act No. 10910 in July 2016, which extended the time to prosecute damages of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, from 15 years to 20 years. Further, the President recently dispensed Executive Order No. 2, series of 2016, entitled Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines For it. It was said that the released is extra usually stated to as the President's Executive Order on Freedom of Information (Philippine Statement for the Resumed 7th Session – Examination of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2016).

According to the Presidential Communications Operations Office (2019), that Corruption obliteration remains the "greatest priority" of the administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte. The required devices are continuously position in place by this government to control it as permitting even the tiniest deed of corruption begets larger and bigger acts which then converted as the norm." Also, he noted that since this administration has started, it has taken measures against corruption in the republic from the nationwide level and home-grown governments to public-private appointments. Duterte has frequently promised to remove government officials and personnel involved in even a "scent of corruption". Other anti-corruption laws signed include Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 that improved the former Anti-Red Tape Law. The fresh act now covers delegations and deputation bureaus and has provisions on zero-contact policy between officers or staffs and demanding parties; to have additional responsibility for officials getting forms, and petite dispensation times for businesses.

According to Andanar (2019) as cited by Parocha (2019), "they are working these practices because the problem of corruption if gone unconstrained types an imminent, deteriorating, and obnoxious culture of bribery, extortion, and embezzlement which deprived of any consequence. Likewise, if this is permissible to drive on, it might repress public's autonomies, rights, lives, properties, and their upcoming." Grounded on its website, International Anti-Corruption Day is observed each December 9 since the passage of the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Corruption to increase awareness of ways to fight corruption. Since then, the government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the media and citizens everywhere in the world have joined forces to fight corruption.

Citing the Philippine Development Plan's (PDP) "malasakit" support concerning upright governance, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) encourages all government bureaus to be persistent in the implementation of their different anti-corruption initiatives with strengthened people engagement. The undersecretary for Policy and Planning Rosemarie G. Edillon said that the corruption hinders stashes, growth of businesses, and conveyance of community services, counting supervision of justice. Thus, the reliable application of anti-corruption initiatives is an imperative portion of the country's improvement plan, under Chapter 5: Guaranteeing Clean, People-Centered and Efficient Governance. In connection, Edillon also mentioned the undertakings of the Office of the Ombudsman in the initial two years of implementation of the PDP. In the Office of the Ombudsman they were able to acquire a perfect one hundred (100) percent of its appellate cases acknowledged by the Supreme Court for criminal dispositions. It was also able to decrease seventy (70) percent of its case dockets. She further stated that, "The authority trials or challenges we encounter are surely abundant but not insuperable with strong citizen arrangements and inter-agency and inter-branch assistance and cooperation. It is necessary to all of us to be persistent in combating the problem of corruption in order to increase people's trust in the government and help nurture a high-trust society and/or government." In addition, the Office of the Ombudsman's anti-corruption initiatives hold the Integrity of the Management Program, under which bureaus create their own Integrity Management Plans to secure corrupt-free procedures and systems. Also, the Office similarly practices the Integrity Caravans to involve the public and private sectors in constructing awareness and partnerships for their different programs. These programs might have motivated the current enhancement in the country's performance in the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Moreover, the Philippines scaled to the 99th rank out of one-eighty (180) countries. Thus, this kind of development of 12 ranks from 111th out of one hundred eighty (180) in 2017. The present ranking puts the country in the 45.0 percentile rank, which surpasses the 2018 mark of 44.0 percentile, creating the country the largest gainer among its ASEAN neighbours. The PDP 2017-2022 is presently doing some work through its midterm review and is anticipated to be issued by the first quarter of 2020 (National Economic and Development Authority, 2019).

Nevertheless, every government seeks to build a public service having the value of excellence and with integrity. Thus, every government should wish to constantly maintains the standard of "a public office is a public trust," for that being said, they started various programs or initiatives specifically to curb or combat the problem of corruption in our society and encourage good governance and public thrust. This study wants to assess the implementation and monitoring of the different anti-corruption initiatives to promote good governance and enhance public trust.

Figure 1 represent the importance of implementation and monitoring efforts of the different anti-corruption initiatives of the Philippine Government or the current administration, specifically the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in order to achieve integrity for the different offices that provides public service and good governance.

➤ *Statement of the Problem*

The problem being investigated is the effort of the Philippine Government in the implementation, and monitoring of different anti-corruption initiatives.

Expressly, it ought to collect particular answers to the following questions:

- What is the status of the anti-corruption initiatives of the Philippine Government in terms of:
 - ✓ Implementation; and
 - ✓ Monitoring.

➤ *Scope and Delimitation*

The participants of the study are the officers employed in Civil Service Commission (CSC) Office Urdaneta City Branch. The study focused to the different anti-corruption initiatives that are being implemented and monitored during 2016 (from the time of Administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte) by the CSC Office Urdaneta City Branch.

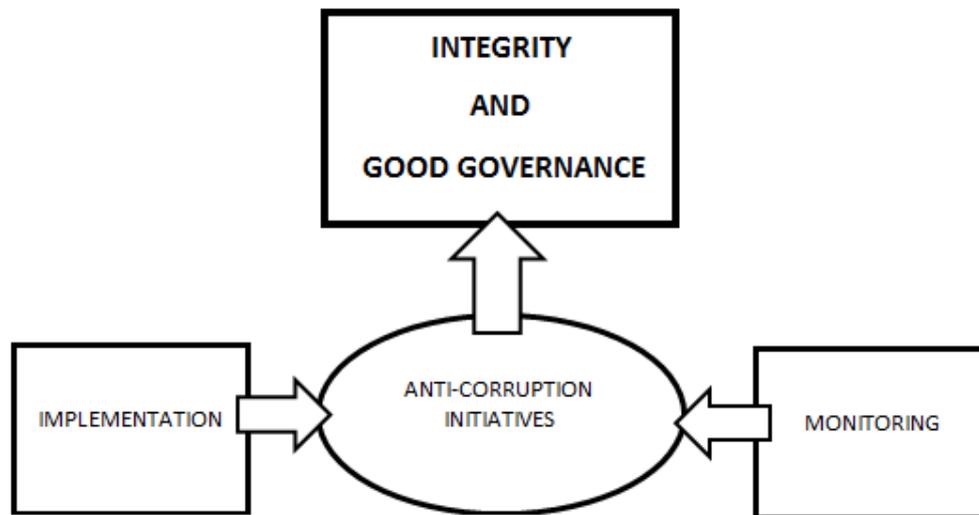


Fig 1:- Paradigm of the Study

II. METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the following: (1) research design; (2) research participants; (3) research instrument; (4) research procedure; and (4) data analysis in this study.

➤ *Research Design*

The study employed a qualitative method of research. As cited by Crossman (2018) “Qualitative research is a kind of social science research that gathers and works with non-quantifiable or non-numerical data and that seek or explore the interpretation of the meaning from these data that help us comprehend social life through the study of targeted populations or places.” More specifically, case studies are based on a thorough investigation or exploration of a single individual, group or event to examine the underlying causes of its principles. Also, a case study is a descriptive in nature and an exploratory analysis of different person, group or event (PressAcademia, 2018).

➤ *Research Participants*

The participants are the officers of Civil Service Commission Urdaneta City Office. They are chosen because they have the knowledge with regards to the different anti-corruption initiatives being implemented and monitored in their highly esteemed office.

➤ *Research Instrument*

The data collection method that will be use is the interview. The interview was semi-structured. This is a form of interview where there were set questioned asked but were not limited but flexible wherein the researcher made follow-up questions.

The interview was chosen to elicit qualitative information (views or opinions) from respondents.

There are several kinds of interview. However, the semi-structured interview was chosen by the researcher to take the benefits from both the structured and unstructured interview. From the same article written by Easwaramoorthy & Zarinpoush, a semi-structured interview is discussed as:

In a semi-structured interview, the researcher utilizes a set of predetermined questions and the participants will answer in their own words. Some researchers utilize a guideline to his or her topic that assists as a checklist to guarantee that all participants provide information on the same topics. The researcher can explore different areas based on the participant’s answers or ask supplementary or additional questions for the clarification in the process of the interview. Moreover, the semi-structured interviews are useful when there it is necessary to collect in-depth

information in a systematic or chronological manner from numerous participants or interviewees (e.g., teachers, community leaders). (Easwaramoorthy & Zarinpoush)

➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

A letter request (Appendix A) will be send to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Urdaneta City Office to formally ask for permission to conduct interviews.

➤ *Data Analysis*

The following were the steps undertaken in interpreting the data (Dela Cruz, Unpublished):

- The answers in the interview were transcribed and read for numerous times;
- The emergent themes were identified, noted and clustered into superordinate concepts; and
- These themes were translated into narrative concepts to explain said themes.

➤ *Ethical Considerations*

In accordance with Dantzker and Hunter's (2012) recommendation of research ethics, the interviews will be conducted in secured space that ensured that the participant in this study is not exposed to intentional harm; informed consent of the participant will be obtained, the anonymity and confidentiality of the information that provided were assured and the participant was informed that her participation in the study was voluntary.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the findings of the study and a discussion of the data analysed and interpreted. The analysis shows that there are two themes in relation to the study which are "Continuous Improvement of the Procedure," "Surprise visit."

➤ *The status of the anti-corruption initiatives of the Philippine Government*

• *Implementation*

Continuous Improvement of the Procedure. The passing of Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 which amended the Republic Act 9485 which is the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. According to one of the participants, "*the service become more efficient through this new law, we need to finish every transaction effectively and efficiently,*" Another states that, "*it has a prescribed time to finish different kind of transaction.*" This implies that the current administration is pursuing policies that will make the service of the commission and other agencies of the government to be better and to provide efficient and effective service in every transaction. In connection, another respondents state that, "*we have this new office which is bigger than the old one, in order to provide better services,*" this shows that the Civil Service Commission of Urdaneta branch is doing its best to render more convenient service through the development of its location and infrastructure.

In addition, the Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 is an act which aims to reorganize the current systems and procedures of government services. It is the breakthrough law of the Duterte or the current administration that addresses priority number 3 of its 0+10 Point Socio-economic Agenda. This specific agenda relates to improve the competitiveness of and ease or simplified on doing business in the Philippines. Correspondingly, the law effectively amends Republic Act 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. Further, the strengthened version of the law is made to facilitate prompt actions or resolution of all government transactions with efficiency and effectiveness. Also, this applies to all government offices and agencies under the Executive Department including the local government units (LGUs), government-owned or -controlled corporations, and other government instrumentalities, located in the Philippines or abroad, that provide services covering any business-related and non-business transactions as mentioned in the implementing rules and regulations (<http://arta.gov.ph/>).

• *Monitoring*

Surprise Visit. Most of the participants' states that, there are surprise visit to every field or branch that evaluates how fast and efficient the personnel of the commission in answering to the needs of their clients. This implies that there are monitoring efforts being conducted to assure the quality service of the commission. One of the participant's states that, "*we are expecting to have two (2) surprise visit in every year.*" This shows that the government are trying to the consistency of the service of the commission through this surprise visit.

Moreover, the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) have need of government organisations to display their Citizen's Charter, this is a document that define the process flow of frontline transactions as well as the estimated time and fees involved. It also needs the display of different Anti-Fixer Campaign materials as well as the formation of the Public Assistance and Complaints Desk (PACD).

Further, we should stay vigilant in order to ensure the compliance with the law through different monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. One of this is the ARTA Watch, this is a surprise visit to government service offices or institution nationwide to check or verify how their frontline transactions are faring. Together with Commissioners Robert S. Martinez and Nieves L. Osorio, have led different ARTA Watch teams in doing surprise visits in Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. They have talk to the different clients and get their opinion or comment about the quality of service given them. ARTA Watch reports have helped us greatly in determining the areas for improvement in terms of frontline services.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the data gathered and presented, the following conclusions are drawn:

- Thus the Civil Service Commission are enhancing its anti-corruption initiatives and ensuring the public continuously of their effective and efficient service. Further, they are continuously developing policies that will help to strengthen their different anti-corruption initiatives.
- Surprise visit through Anti-Red Tape Act watch program is one of the anti-corruption initiatives that facilitates the checking of different branches or satellite office of Civil Service Commission. Thus, they are continuously strengthening the monitoring service of the commission to further enhance and maintain the effective and efficient public service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following are recommended:

- There is a need to strengthen the implementation of the anti-corruption initiatives through revisiting the guidelines or policies of the commission in its operation.
- There is a need to craft alternatives to cater unexpected phenomena like this pandemic so that the monitoring cannot be interrupted, further, the commission could add more surprise visit.

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