

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Manila

July 3, 1987

DECS O R D E R
No. 72, s. 1987

PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DECS

To: Undersecretaries
Regional Directors
Bureau and Center Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. In a letter of President Corazon C. Aquino to all Cabinet Secretaries (See Inclosure), she emphatically reaffirms her stand against corruption in public service and her "resolve to undertake all the necessary measures to punish and eradicate it and prevent its recurrence." (Underlining is DECS').

2. In the same letter, she declares that every Department Secretary shall be "held responsible for the honesty and efficiency of the service of his Department" in the same manner that she, as President, is responsible for the integrity and competence of the members of her Cabinet.

3. In line with the President's emphasis on command responsibility in the eradication of graft and corruption in public service, all undersecretaries, regional, bureau and center directors, heads of units in both the central and regional offices, presidents of state colleges and universities, district supervisors and principals shall be held accountable for the integrity and competence of the personnel under their direct supervision.

4. In accordance with the standards set by the President, i.e., being "uncompromising on the issue of graft and corruption" and performing one's functions "with efficiency, honesty and frugality," all the above officials are expected to set the tone of performance in their offices or institutions by their own personal example. As the President has indicated in her letter, she shall "take integrity as a necessary condition of continued service" in the government.

5. Every head of office or educational institution is "expected to move swiftly against corrupt subordinates, to set up systems that will detect corruption and prevent its recurrence, as well as promote ethics in the public service."

6. In conformity with the principle of common responsibility, any breach of standards for public service by an official of this Department, e.g., graft and corruption, brought to the attention of this Office shall be immediately referred to the appropriate administrative or supervisory official for investigation and proper sanctions, if necessary. Such official shall be accountable to his superior officials and to this Office for the performance and conduct of the particular individual and for forestalling recurrence of undesirable conduct in public service.

7. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Order is desired.

(SGD.) LOURDES R. QUISUMBING
Secretary

Incl.:
As stated

Reference:
None

Allotment: 1-2-3--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

- > COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
- > OFFICIALS
- > POLICY
- > SERVICE

(Inclosure to DECS Order No. 72, s. 1987)

MALACANAN PALACE
Manila

June 23, 1987

The Honorable Secretary
LOURDES R. QUISUMBING
Department of Education,
Culture and Sports

Dear Secretary Quisumbing,

The problem of graft and corruption in government and the possible ways to curb, if not totally, eliminate it have often been discussed in the Cabinet. We have also arrived at the consensus that no single person or body, acting as "graftbuster", could possibly ferret out corrupt officials and practices in all the departments and their various levels. Thus, we have all decided that each Department Secretary should be held responsible for the honesty and efficiency of the service of his Department, in the same manner that I am responsible for the integrity and competence of the members of my Cabinet.

I am writing you as a reminder and a reaffirmation of the stand we have taken against corruption in the public service, and our response to undertake all the necessary measures to punish and eradicate it, and prevent its recurrence. Indeed, the task we have set for ourselves is obviously a very difficult one, and assumes we can undo a long heritage of corruption even in these difficult times. But, as I said in my message to the action officers who will hold a seminar on this problem: Our people have done extraordinary things to regain their freedom and reestablish democracy. In turn, they expect extraordinary efforts and achievements on the part of their government.

I shall be uncompromising on the issue of graft and corruption. I expect your Department to take its cue from the Presidency by running its affairs with efficiency, honesty and frugality. I expect you to set the tone of administration in your Department by your own personal example. And I shall take integrity as a necessary condition of continued service in my government.

In particular, you are expected to move swiftly against the corrupt among your subordinates, to set up the systems that will detect corruption and prevent its recurrence as well as promote ethics in the public service. In short, I want you to attack the problem of graft and corruption in your Department with the zeal, time and resources that this endemic problem deserves.

I expect to leave a legacy of honest government, and I expect you to do your part in making this possible.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD-) CORAZON C. AQUINO
President, Republic of the Philippines