

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
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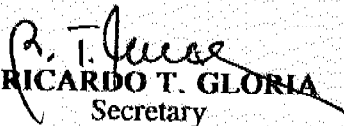
June 20, 1996

DECS O R D E R
No. 43, s. 1996

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OMBUDSMAN JUNIOR GRAFTWATCH UNITS (JGUs)
IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND STATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES**

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

1. The Junior Graftwatch Unit is an organization to be established by students and community-based youth organizations as the coordinating arm of the Office of the Ombudsman in the campaign against graft and corruption.
2. The JGU shall be formed by the students in close coordination with the Office of the Ombudsman and shall become part of the school's extra-curricular organizations.
3. The program aims to: a) direct the growing concern and awaken the consciousness of young citizens into productive action towards the elimination or reduction of graft and corruption and its effects to the country's economy; b) develop and ingrain in the youth moral values such as honesty and efficiency in preparation for their future roles as leaders of the country; and c) orient the youth on the tasks, functions, and role of the Office of the Ombudsman.
4. In response to the request of the Ombudsman for assistance in the effective implementation of the Junior Graftwatch Program, all Ombudsman representatives should be allowed to conduct orientation seminars on Junior Graftwatch in all public secondary schools and state colleges and universities throughout the country.
5. Inclosed is a copy of the JGU Concept Paper for the information and guidance of all concerned.
6. The wide dissemination and strict compliance of this Order is enjoined.


RICARDO T. GLORIA
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:

✓ OFFICIALS

✓ SCHOOLS

Concept Paper on Junior Graftwatch

I. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution mandates the Ombudsman to serve as protector of the people. This protective clout addresses itself to those personae who are necessarily vested with vast powers of the state who abuse and feloniously use these powers contrary to the public good and welfare. This abuse and misuse of legitimate authority oftentimes manifest themselves as acts of graft and corruption. And this sad state of affairs seems to evolve as the rule rather than the exception in public service in cognizance of and to check the evolution of this social malady the organic law as well as existing statutes provide the legal sanctions and penalties for those found guilty of these acts. More importantly the task to abate and check the growth of this social cancer necessitates not only penalizing corrupt acts already committed but how to prevent the commission of said acts in the first place. The prevention and control of graft and corruption occupies the priority agenda of the Office of the Ombudsman.

This is a gargantuan undertaking which cannot be realistically achieved by one office, however vested with legal powers--without the active participation and cooperation of the citizenry at large and the public officials themselves in the government agencies. In this direction, the Office of the Ombudsman has already set up corruption preventive programs namely the establishment of Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) and the organization of the Citizen's Committee on Good Government (CCGGs) organized by NGOs and concerned citizens to serve as citizen's arm of OMB in its graft prevention campaigns. At present there are 269 accredited CPUs both community-based and network type of organizations

throughout the country assisting the Office in prevention of graft and corruption. Resident Ombudsmen were designated in government agencies to principally act as the link of the particular government agency to the OMB and to serve as expediter/facilitator of citizen complaints and request for assistance.

To achieve a total and multisectoral approach to the campaign against graft and corruption, the involvement of the youth is deemed vital and decisive. Thus the creation and establishment of Junior Graftwatch Units in every school and communities in the country. The Jr. Graftwatch Unit is an organization to be established by student and community-based youth organizations. The JGUs shall become the primary coordinating arm of the Office of the Ombudsman with respect to the educational and motivational projects involving the youth as well as to serve as the OMB's mobilizers and foot soldiers in the conduct of the war against graft and corruption.

II. RATIONALE

The youth sector is not only significant in number but also the heirs of the patrimony of the nation as well as future leaders of the country. The 1987 Constitution specifically Article II, section 13 thereof provides that *"the state recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well being."* It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The youth accounts for 56.79% of the 70,266,876 M Philippine population. Majority of the population fall under 25 years of age. An estimated 39,903,000 of the young populace are supposed to be enrolled in the schools at various levels. Based on current enrolment, SY 1994-95, 17,817,017 or 44.65% constitute the student sector and the remaining percentage represent the out-of-school youth and the youth in the labor force.

Of the 17,817,017 student population, 61 % are enrolled in the elementary schools, 26.7% in secondary schools, 3 % in technical vocational education institutions and 9.3% in higher education institutions. The National Capital Region (NCR) obtains the highest enrolment in government and private schools. 14.9% of the entire student population are enrolled in the NCR alone.

There are 44,183 government and private schools nationwide. 40.82% of these schools are located in Luzon, 24.51% in Visayas and 23.42% in Mindanao. As compared to other regions, the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) has the least number of schools (1,428 Or 3.23%) followed closely by the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (1,707 or 3.86%). In the NCR there are 951 elementary schools, 449 secondary schools, 227 technical/vocational education institutions and 205 higher education institutions. The NCR has the least number of elementary schools but the most number of higher education institutions.

The proposed establishment of the Junior Graftwatch Program of the Office of the Ombudsman aims to carry out the intendment of the fundamental law as well as to provide an overriding focus on government thrusts and programs for the youth. The youth sector's mobility and capacity to easily grasp ideas and ideals make them a strategically effective arm for catalyzing and awakening government inertia into efficient action as well as make them fearless fiscalizers of the bureacracy's misfits and undesirables. Toward this end the youth can be an effective partner of the Office of the Ombudsman in the total war against corruption.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. General Objectives

1. To direct the growing concern and awaken the consciousness of young citizens into productive action towards the elimination or reduction of graft and corruption and its effects to the country's economy.

2. To develop and ingrain in the youth moral values such as honesty and efficiency in preparation for their future roles as leaders of the country.

B. Specific Objectives

1. To provide a mechanism for young citizen's effective participation in OMB's corruption prevention campaign.

2. To establish a Junior-Graftwatch Unit in every school and community.

3. To promote recognition for the youth's achievement in their positive efforts towards clean and honest government.

IV. THE JUNIOR GRAFTWATCH

There shall be one Jr. Graftwatch Unit to be created/organized by school and community-based youth organizations in every public high school, college or community. However, if no new organization is created for the sole purpose of organizing a Jr. Graftwatch, an existing student or community based organization, may be accredited as an OMB Jr. Graftwatch Unit.

1. Accreditation of Student/Community-based Youth Organization as Jr. Graftwatch Unit

Student and community-based youth organizations desiring to establish Junior Graftwatch Units in their respective schools and communities shall be required to apply for accreditation with the Office of the Ombudsman through its Community Coordination Bureau.

1.1 Requirements for Accreditation of Student Youth Organization

a. Petition for accreditation of the student organization as Jr. Graftwatch Unit of OMB to be signed by its President.

b. Copy of certificate of recognition issued by the Office of the Student Affairs to the student organization.

c. Copy of the organization's Constitution or By-Laws.

d. List of officers with their names, respective positions, majors, year levels, addresses and telephone numbers.

e. Proposed activities/programs for the entire school year, including tentative dates of implementation and a brief description of each activity.

1.2 Requirements for Accreditation of Community Based Youth Organization

a. Petition for accreditation of the youth organization as Junior Graftwatch Unit of OMB to be signed by its President or authorized representative.

b. Copy of Constitution and By-Laws.

c. Certified True Copy of SEC Registration Certificate, if any.

d. Barangay Clearance

The Office of the Ombudsman shall evaluate the petition for accreditation of youth organizations as Jr. Graftwatch Units and shall ensure that the organizations' Constitution/By-Laws and proposed activities/programs are not in conflict with OMB's objectives. A corresponding certificate of accreditation shall be issued by the Office of the Ombudsman to the organization upon full compliance with the requirements herein prescribed.

The accreditation shall entitle the holder thereof to conduct activities pertinent to graft and corruption prevention in coordination with the OMB and shall be valid for one year unless sooner revoked for reasons violative of the accreditation guidelines of the Jr. Graftwatch.

2. Powers/Functions and Duties of the Jr. Graftwatch Unit

The Jr. Graftwatch Unit shall have the following duties and functions:

a. To promote the objectives of the Office of the Ombudsman.

b. To act as the primary coordinating arm of the Office of the Ombudsman regarding the implementation of educational and motivational projects and activities which OMB has to undertake for the benefit of the studentry.

c. To assist concerned youth on their requests for assistance, grievance and/or complaints or report any anomalous, unjust, improper and corrupt activities by government agency or personnel by providing information assistance or make representations with the concerned government agencies thru the latter's Resident Ombudsman.

d. In appropriate cases, to file the necessary complaint/request for assistance in behalf of the concerned youth before the OMB.

e. To closely monitor the implementation of programs or projects of an agency in certain area and remind the agency concerned of their stated timetable.

f. To assist the OMB in the data gathering and research study pertinent to graft and corruption prevention in their field of studies.

g. To conduct its own campaigns/projects promoting not only honesty and efficiency in government service but as well as on the part of the other side of the transacting process--the public at large.

h. To conduct symposia, seminars, workshops, or conferences among citizens in the area inculcating the moral values of honesty as well as educating the public on the legal, technical, social and economic ramifications of graft and corruption.

i. To report and make commendations of worthy deeds of a government agency/personnel in the discharge of its/his official service, e.g. speedy completion of projects, savings/cost reduction in its operations, etc.

j. To submit quarterly reports on the activities and projects said chapter has undergone.

k. To perform such other functions as may be designated by OMB.

3. Organizational Set-up

The basic organizational element is the Jr. Graftwatch Unit (JGU) established in every public high school, college/university or community in the Philippines. The general membership shall be composed of bonafide students of said universities, colleges and high schools. An OMB-JGU may be formed by individual students, alliance or federation of student organizations and the Student Councils or Governments of concerned schools may act as the Schools JGU Coordinator.

The different schools, universities and colleges may be grouped or federated into Territorial Committees along the DECS' division of schools system. Namely the City of Manila shall be JGU District Committee No. 1; JGUs from Quezon City, Marikina, San Juan, Mandaluyong and Pasig as District Committee No. 2; JGUs from the City of Pasay, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Taguig, Pateros, Makati and Muntinlupa as District Committee No. 3 and OMB-JGUs from the City of Kalookan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela as District Committee No. 4.

The four district committees shall form the Metro-Manila Jr. Graftwatch Committee to be governed by a Council of Leaders elected by the general membership of JGUs in Metro-Manila area. The Council of Leaders may consist of such proportionate number of representatives from the different district committees based on the number of school or student population as the case may be.

The Council shall be headed by one Secretary-General and to be assisted by two Deputy Secretary-Generals, one for university/college/school based JGUs and the other from the community/high school sector. These officers may be elected by the general membership in plenary session of a general Metro-Manila JGU Congress or convention. The Metro-Manila Committee's Council of Leaders may elect and/or appoint other positions or officers as the situation warrant.

The Metro-Manila JGU structural and organizational patterns may be adopted in the other regional areas of the country in direct consultation and coordination with the various OMB regional offices in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

At such time that all regional JGU committees shall have been formed and the conduct of a National Congress or convention of JGUs is feasible the formation of the National Committee of Leaders may be effected through the plenary act of such national Congress or convention.