

MESSAGE

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PRESIDENT, METROBANK FOUNDATION

2016 METROBANK FOUNDATION PROFESSORIAL CHAIR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE LECTURE

FEBRUARY 16, 2015, 2:00 PM

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI CITY

**“THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A FULL PARTNER
IN GOOD GOVERNANCE”**

(SALUTATION)

HONORABLE CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES, OMBUDSMAN, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES,

DR. ANTONETTE PALMA ANGELES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS,

ATTY. SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA, DEAN OF THE ATENEO LAW SCHOOL

COLLEAGUES FROM THE METROBANK GROUP,

REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND MEDIA PARTNERS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD AFTERNOON!

TODAY'S LECTURE IS INDEED VERY INTERESTING. WHAT EXACTLY IS A CORRUPTION INTOLERANT SOCIETY? PARAPHRASING THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 'S DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION, IT IS A SOCIETY WHEREIN THE MISUSE OF PUBLIC POWER AND AUTHORITY FOR PRIVATE BENEFIT IS NOT AN ACCEPTED PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE. IT IS AN ENVIRONMENT WHEN THERE ARE LOW REWARDS AND HIGH RISKS IN ENGAGING IN CORRUPT PRACTICES. IT IS A STRUCTURE WHERE CHECKS AND BALANCES TO POWER ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED. LASTLY, IT IS A CULTURE WHERE LEADERSHIP IS SEEN AS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A PERK.

YOU MAY ASK, WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IF IT CHAMPIONS GOVERNANCE THAT IS EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND UPHOLDS THE RULE OF LAW? FOR MANY, THE MOST OBVIOUS ANSWER IS THAT GOOD GOVERNANCE CREATES A STABLE ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO THE PURSUIT OF BUSINESS GOALS. BUT LET ME ADD OUR TAKE AT THE METROBANK GROUP – THAT IT IS SIMPLY OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CITIZENS. WE, WHO BENEFIT FROM THE FREEDOMS AFFORDED BY A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, MUST ENSURE THAT OUR COUNTRYMEN ENJOY SIMILAR PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS.

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE DNA OF THE METROBANK GROUP. OUR FOUNDER AND GROUP CHAIRMAN DR. GEORGE SK TY WAS INSPIRED BY THE MOTTO OF THE LATE ENTREPRENEUR, MR. ANDRES SORIANO, SR., WHICH IS “PROFIT WITH HONOR.” HE BELIEVED THAT SHORT TERM GAINS FOR HIS BUSINESSES DUE TO UNSAVORY PRACTICES IS NOT JUSTIFIABLE VIS-A-VIS THE GREATER AND LONG TERM LOSSES FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. THAT IS IN ADDITION TO THE INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO THE MORAL FIBER OF OUR FILIPINO PUBLIC.

THIS IS WHY THE METROBANK GROUP AND GT CAPITAL HOLDINGS ARE COMMITTED TO PRACTICING IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ACCOUNTABILITY TO STAKEHOLDERS, GOOD PEOPLE MANAGEMENT, OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT CONTROLS, AND DEDICATION TO THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR MISSIONS AS STEWARDS OF THE PUBLIC TRUST.

AS THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ARM OF THE GROUP, METROBANK FOUNDATION IS UNWAVERING IN ITS COMMITMENT TO LEAD THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FOSTERING HOLISTIC

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN OUR 37 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO PROMOTE AND FOSTER THE VALUES OF EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR PEOPLE, BELIEVING THAT A NATION PROUD OF ITSELF IS TOO NOBLE TO DESCEND TO DISREPUTABLE ACTS.

THE PROFESSORIAL CHAIR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE IS ONE OF OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FURTHERING THE DISCOURSE ON LEADERSHIP. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ATENEO SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN THIS LECTURE SINCE 2000. TODAY MARKS A MILESTONE FOR THE PROGRAM, WITH THE EXPANSION TO INCLUDE THE ATENEO'S THREE OTHER PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, NAMELY THE LAW SCHOOL, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, AND THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO DIVERSIFY LECTURE TOPICS AND EMPLOY A VARIETY OF EXPERT SPEAKERS, IN THE PROCESS BETTER EDUCATING THE CITIZENRY ON PUBLIC-INTEREST ISSUES.

WE ARE VERY HONORED TO HAVE THE OMBUDSMAN AS OUR PROFESSORIAL CHAIRHOLDER. SHE IS A STAUNCH ALLY OF THE METROBANK FOUNDATION IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY AMONG OUR TEACHERS, SOLDIERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND JOURNALISTS, AS SHE HERSELF SERVED AS CHAIR OR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF JUDGES IN OUR VARIOUS SEARCHES. A WOMAN OF UNQUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY AND EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP, SHE IS THE BEST PERSON TO DELIVER THIS LECTURE TODAY.

I SEE MANY YOUNG FACES HERE TODAY, OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE LAWYERS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS. I WANT TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU REGARDLESS OF THE SPECIFIC FIELD YOU ENTER INTO AND THE HEIGHTS YOU WILL REACH, TO SERVE WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL EVENTUALLY PURSUE PUBLIC OFFICE, ALL THE MORE SHOULD YOU SERVE HONORABLY.

I HOPE THAT THE OMBUDSMAN' S LECTURE WILL INSPIRE EVERYONE HERE PRESENT, TO BE A MAN OR WOMAN FOR OTHERS, IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE IGNATIAN TRADITION.

BEFORE I END, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE THOUGHTS OF OUR 2015 OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST MARITES VITUG. OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER WILL DEFINITELY RECALL THIS SINCE SHE WAS THE JURY CHAIR LOOKING BACK AT HER MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS A JOURNALIST, MARITESS VITUG RECALLS: AND I QUOTE,

"THROWING PEBBLES INTO STILL WATERS, EACH PEBBLE CREATING RIPPLE UPON RIPPLE UNTIL IT REACHES THE SHORE. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS EVERY TIME WE WRITE A STORY. BUT MANY TIMES, THE RIPPLES GO UNNOTICED, QUIET AS A WHISPER.

NO ACTION, NO REFORM, NO CHANGE TAKES PLACE EVEN AFTER WE'D WRITTEN CONSISTENTLY ABOUT MALFEASANCE IN CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS AND BY OFFICIALS FOR WHOM INTEGRITY IS COMPLETELY ALIEN TERRITORY.

THROUGH ALL THESE DECADES IN JOURNALISM, I'VE LEARNED TO TAKE THE LONG VIEW. CHANGE DOESN'T COME SWIFTLY AND IN DRAMATIC WAYS. CHANGE IS INCREMENTAL.

WE HOLD A MIRROR TO SOCIETY, BEAR WITNESS AND, IN DOING SO, ETCH MARKS IN OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY, SO THAT WE DO NOT FORGET."

MAY WE ALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR RESPECTIVE SHARE IN OUR COLLECTIVE JOURNEY TO BRING ABOUT A CORRUPTION INTOLERANT SOCIETY.

THANK YOU AND HAVE A PLEASANT AFTERNOON!