Fighting Corruption in Education Sector through Citizen Participation in Enhancing Accountability: the G-Watch Experience

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Governance Context

WEAK INSTITUTION

• Laws exist, but operationalizing and enabling the implementation of these laws is a problem
• Bureaucracy is weak vis-à-vis political elites
• Cultural dimension of corruption
  – Public means as private property
  – Distrust towards public space

conducive environment for corruption
Points to the pressing need to address corruption if only to make the use of scare resources efficient!

**DISMAL STATE OF EDUCATION**

6.8 million has never gone to school (E-Network Quick Stats 2003)

1 in 6 Filipinos is not functionally literate (9.6 million)

Subject mastery has been deteriorating with student achievement rates in almost all subjects below 50%  

**Shortage in resources**: high student-teacher ratio; overcrowded classrooms, 45% of schools with no electricity; 40% with no potable water
In 2000...

- It was established that corruption happens in the course of implementation when allocated money do not go where it was supposed to go.

- There was very little civil society action in monitoring how public resources are being spent.
GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To ensure that the right quantity and quality of education services are procured and delivered to the right beneficiaries at the right time following the right processes.
## G-Watch Impact and Results

- Insitutionalized mechanism for participation, transparency and accountability
- Contributes in efficiency (reduction of prices, shorten the period of procurement, save monitoring cost)
- More similar initiatives in education
- Improved public trust
- Influenced budget preparation and policy-making

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**G-Watch Ateneo School of Government**

*joint government-citizen action for good governance*
Government Watch (G-Watch)

Since 2000

It is a program that promotes and strengthens transparency and accountability towards effective governance through CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT between citizen organizations and government in PERFORMANCE MONITORING.

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
G-Watch Social Accountability Approach

- Constructive engagement
- Easy-to-use tools
- Data- and evidence-based
- Community-based
- Preventive and pre-emptive

G-WATCH APPROACH

Ateneo School of Government
(1) Create, Formalize and Nurture Constructive Engagement

- Champion-building
- Entering into MOA makes wonders
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Continuous trust- and confidence-building
(2) Develop an easy-to-use and simple tool

- Key to enabling the participation of ordinary citizens

- Which parts of the service delivery process must be monitored; which standards are most critical

- Should be able to generate data
(3) Design mechanisms that PREVENT non-compliance/ abuse

- Monitoring as an affirmative action to promote and support compliance
- Quick feedback mechanism allows quick remedy to flaws in implementation
CSO participation mainstreamed and integrated in every critical components of the program
during the production of textbooks, physical quality inspections are conducted with CSOs.

Textbooks and Teacher’s Manuals found with defects and deficiencies in printing were marked “for replacement” and are replaced by the suppliers.
(4) Mobilize, organize, capacitate communities and citizens

- Beneficiaries as monitors
- Supports sustainability
- Linked to the top
Communities help in the onward delivery of textbooks through *Textbook Walk*, which is a synchronized festivity showcasing community action that aims to help distribute textbooks and to create public awareness on the need to improve education.

In Socorro, Surigao del Norte, Textbook Walk volunteers carry textbooks on their heads from the district office to local elementary schools. Motorcycles and tricycles, the common mode of transport, were also used. Photo courtesy of G-Watch.

The Textbook Walk in Dauin, Negros Oriental coincided with the town fiesta, resulting in what organizers called high-energy volunteerism. The local government provided two trucks to haul the books from the schools district to the local elementary schools. Photo courtesy of G-Watch.

..even carabaos joined the festivity along with the entire community.
Help our students get their books on time. To volunteer as a textbook delivery watcher in your school, call the following numbers...

With the assistance of our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Department of Education will deliver 14 million textbooks to cover 42,000 public schools from July to November 2004. That’s almost 84 million textbooks and teachers’ manuals delivered since 2001.

Help us to educate for a strong republic. Join National Textbook Delivery Program’s “Textbook Count”. Text (0919) 456-0027 or call 899-4588 to volunteer.
(5) Ensure that data and evidence are gathered and processed to assess performance and support reform advocacies

**BASELINE DATA:**
- 10 out of 23 DPWH-implemented school buildings were of good quality
- Plans, standards, and specifications were often not followed
- Quality output was a function of the degree of supervision and contract administration
- Principal-led SBPs were remarkably of good quality
- Community involvement resulted to higher client satisfaction
- Political interference in contractor selection and work programming adversely affected output
- Community (esp. PTCA) initiatives helped improve projects

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:**
- Policies that improve monitoring
- Bigger budget for principal-led
- Greater role and participation of communities
METHODOLOGY

- Identify what to monitor
- Formalize Partnerships
- Standards Mapping
- Develop Monitoring Tool and Design
- Actual Monitoring
- Post-Monitoring Activities
- Institutionalization
How is it addressing the conducive environment for corruption: weakness in institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEAK INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>DEMOCRATIZING INSTITUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Operationalizing and enabling the implementation of laws | Pilot projects to adopted program  
  • tested mechanisms to operationalize and realize transparency, accountability and participation policies |
| Bureaucracy is weak vis-à-vis monopolized political power | Constructive engagement between civil society and government as a new tool for honest bureaucrats to neutralize abuse of discretion of their political bosses |
| Cultural dimension of corruption | Broadening and deepening of government spaces accessible to ordinary people (address limits of “long-route to accountability, i.e., elections) – builds ownership  
  Change attitude of people towards government officials (at least understanding its complexity) and enhance appreciation of government towards role of civil society |
Monitoring and Improving Service Delivery of LGUs using Government Watch (G-Watch) as a Social Accountability Tool
4 Sustainability Elements

- **Policy support**
  - access to information
  - monitoring project as a regular project of the agency

- **Knowledge products and capacity**
  - easy-to-use manual
  - monitoring tool
  - regular briefing-orientations
  - development of new monitoring project

- **Self-sustaining mechanism for flow of information**
  - meeting of stakeholders to prepare and process result
  - quick response (hotline)
  - technology-based reporting

- **Self-sustaining mechanism for analysis and advocacy**
  - existing participatory mechanisms: LDCs, sectoral-based councils
  - existing decision-making venues: Sanggunian, management meeting
  - regular fora/event
End of Presentation. Thank you!
G-Watch Impact and Results

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G-Watch Impact and Results

- Institutionalized mechanism for participation, transparency and accountability
Contributes in efficiency
...paved the way for the
decrease of average textbook price
P120 to P30–40

...decrease in procurement time
from 24 mos to ave. of 12 months

...savings in monitoring cost
If IAR is signed, government no longer conducts further validation
Contributes in efficiency...

...ensured standard implementation of 117 classrooms amounting to Php 112.5M worth of contract and facilitated response to reports of defective doorknobs, electrical and water sanitation and poor quality materials.
Contributes in efficiency...

...ascertained at least **Php 1.3B** spent accurately by DepEd through procurement monitoring.

G-Watch Ateneo School of Government

*joint government-citizen action for good governance*
More CSO initiatives that enhance transparency and accountability in DepEd

- Education Watch
- Alternative Budget Initiative
- Bantay Eskwela
- Integrity Pact
- InfraWatch
- Mystreet Philippines
**IMPROVED PUBLIC TRUST**

### Table 1a

**GRAFT AND CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

February 2 - 15, 2009 / Philippines  
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 5 allowed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAST / ALMOST NO GRAFT &amp; CORRUPTION</th>
<th>MOST GRAFT &amp; CORRUPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Education</td>
<td>Dept. of Public Works and Highways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Health</td>
<td>Philippine National Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Social Welfare and Development</td>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td>Bureau of Internal Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Tourism</td>
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<td>Social Security System</td>
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<td>Dept. of Justice</td>
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<td>Philippine National Police</td>
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<td>Dept. of Environment &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Dept. of Labor and Employment</td>
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<td>GSIS</td>
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<td>National Food Authority</td>
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<td>Armed Forces of the Philippines</td>
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<td>TESDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Dept. of Public Works and Highways</td>
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<td>OWWA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of National Defense</td>
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<td>Bureau of Internal Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Transportation Office</td>
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<td>Red Cross</td>
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<td>Dept. of Agrarian Reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Trade and Industry</td>
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Influencing budget preparation and law-making

- Monitoring results presented to DepEd execs and Congress on the deliberation of the budget and to come up with amendments in related policy.