

EDITOR'S NOTE

The four articles included in this special section on corruption are part of the research conducted by the Philippine Center for Policy Studies (PCPS) under the project Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG). The TAG project sought to raise public awareness of corruption through various channels in order to provide a momentum for reform. Besides research, other avenues of the project involved public opinion surveys, investigative reports, and regular public forums. The editor and the authors especially thank their TAG partners for their support and encouragement, namely, The Asia Foundation, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, Social Weather Stations, and the Makati Business Club as well as Shiela Camingue, Grace Ong and Ruby Ann Pimentel who provided invaluable research assistance.

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The first article by de Dios and Ferrer assesses the importance of different modes of corruption in a specifically Philippine context. The other pieces are more detailed analyses of specific examples of corrupt practices. Government procurement is probably the mode of transaction that is most vulnerable to corruption and is the topic of both Virtucio and Lalunio's piece and that of Mendoza. Virtucio and Lalunio provide a detailed description of the various ways the procurement process can be corrupted. Mendoza, on the other hand, takes a broader view and asks whether larger trends such as liberalization and privatization have affected corruption-proneness of procurement processes. Finally the last article by Pascual and Lim, in dealing with the BW case, illustrates a new mode of extracting rents through the operation of markets. More important, however, it questions the simple identification of government with corruption and of transparency with markets and regards both institutions as capable of failure.

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Issue Editor

