

Editor's Notes

This issue highlights a number of policy areas.

The lead article, "The Debt Burden of the Philippines: Magnitudes, Costs and Problems," by Leonor M. Briones, is a well-documented assessment of the Philippine government's policy of deficit financing which relies on public borrowing as a tool for meeting the financial requirements of development. The disastrous results of such a policy are described in very vivid terms. The analysis presented provides a useful framework for understanding the political and economic crises confronting the Philippines today.

The same criterion in assessing the policy of deficit financing — who the true beneficiaries are — is used to evaluate the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kanunlaran (KKK), the subject of the second article by Ana Maria S. Agulto. Specifically, an allocative principle, *social justice* defined in terms of "reverse discrimination" or the just treatment of differences, is used to assess the Philippine government's enterprise program.

The third article by Florida Ruth P. Romero exhibits the same people orientation as it advances new policy directions in Philippine family law in response to the changing mores and attitudes of the people.

This issue also highlights various facets of administrative capability.

One is the behavioral dimension analyzed by G. Sivalingam in the fourth article, "Bureaucratic Corruption in Malaysia: The Incongruence Between Social and Legal Norms." The fifth article also touches on this dimension situating the bureaucrats not so much in their social context as Sivalingam does, but in their political context. In these terms, Habib Mohammad Zafarullah sees the importance of analyzing the problems and prospects of abolishing tenure in the higher echelons of the Australian public service, given their policy formulating and implementing roles.

The last article by Gabriel U. Iglesias evaluates a strategy for enhancing the administrative capability of local governments in the Philippines — the Provincial Development Assistance Project (PDAP). A joint project of the National Economic Council (now the National Economic and Development Authority) and the US Agency for International Development, the strategy involves assisting local governments in planning and managing development programs and projects.