

Editor's Notes

We feature in this issue the papers presented at the Colloquium on Public Management jointly sponsored by the UP College of Public Administration (UP-CPA) and Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), held both at the DAP and the UP-CPA from 21 July to 18 August 1986. The theme of the said colloquium was "Government Reforms: Perspective for Change and Agenda for Action," and was divided into four (4) sessions.

Session One dealt with the issue of government's role specifically in terms of what Government should do and not do. Solita Monsod discusses the type and nature of reforms needed in government within the context of current political developments. Francisco Tàtad writing on the same topic prescribes action points to strengthen the position of the nascent government of President Aquino in the face of challenges by competing groups espousing different interests.

Session Two highlighted the all-important changes necessary to upgrade the Philippine Civil Service system. Addressing this general concern, Emmanuel Soriano emphasizes the importance of revising the prevailing negative perception towards the civil bureaucracy through concerted efforts to improve the system's human resources component. Civil Service Chairperson Celerina Gotladera, on the other hand, enumerates the steps intended to be taken by the Civil Service Commission in reshaping the civil service system to make it more attuned to the needs of the new government.

Session Three examined the financial aspect of governmental operations. Main paperwriters were Alberto Romulo and Juanita Amatong. The reformulated 1986 national budget, as brought out by Romulo, intends to re-channel state expenditures toward programs and projects that will alleviate poverty, generate employment and develop the rural and agricultural sectors. The prime objective of the government, he adds, remains to be the reduction of the country's P27.9 billion deficit and a combination of external and domestic borrowing and tax structure reforms are some of the proposals to meet this fiscal problem. Amatong's findings lead one to the obvious conclusion that the scope of government activity increased in the period 1976-1984.

Onofre Corpuz and Raul De Guzman addressed the question posed in Session Four, "Is there a Philippine Public Administration?" According to Corpuz, three major institutions, namely, education, politics and government shape Philippine public administration. His observation indicates that the nation's educational system distorted its sense of value vis-a-vis precision and quality while politics and government, even with heavy American influence, remain in the hands of the elite. The social order existing since the Spanish era remain even at the present time. For his part, De Guzman defines public administration from different perspectives, i.e. as governmental bureaucracy, and as a field of study. Public administration is largely affected by socio-cultural, economic and political factors. He concludes by stating that public administration as a science in this country has yet to be realized.

Also included in this issue is the study conducted by Gabriel Iglesias and Perla Segovia entitled "Experience on Curriculum Planning in Selected Philippine Public Enterprises." This exposition brings to the reader's attention some key aspects in curriculum planning in ten selected Philippine public enterprises.