

Editor's Notes

The bureaucracy has always been regarded as a major source of stability and continuity in the society. Such a basic feature was dramatically illustrated after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship: many basic public services continued to be provided inspite of the political upheaval. Above (or below?) the developments that ushered in unusual political changes, the public administrative system continued to function as if on auto-pilot illustrating its incredible ability to adjust to the political catharsis occuring at the topmost levels of the politico-administrative system.

Almost two years after the installation of the Aquino administration through the so-called "people power revolution," the UP College of Public Administration and the Philippine Society for Public Administration sponsored the Third National Conference on Public Administration from September 28 to 30, 1987. The conference, which had for its theme "Public Administration and Redemocratization," focussed on the state and developments in public administration within the context of the redemocratization and transition from authoritarianism to a more open and structurally democratic system. The 1988 issues of the *Philippine Journal of Public Administration* (Volume XXXII, Numbers 1 to 4) feature the papers that were presented during that conference.

This issue features the first three modules of the Conference. The first module entitled "New Challenges to Teaching and Research in PA," is introduced by the article of Proserpina Domingo-Tapales which characterizes Philippine public administration as influenced by western thought but nevertheless able to sustain and produce theories relevant to the current direction of teaching and research in the field. In a second article "Going Up the Career Ladder Via the UCPA: A Profile of Graduates of Our Academic Program," Professor Domingo-Tapales examines the products of public administration education over the past 35 years. She concludes that there is a general trend towards an improved career for UCPA graduates.

Ledivina V. Cariño in her article "Bureaucracy and Balance: Bureaucratic Power for Political Development" takes off from distinguished public administration scholar Fred Riggs' notion pertaining to the unification of politics and administration which involves moving away from the traditional thinking about a politics/administration dichotomy. She underscores the need for a proper balance between the development of bureaucracy and other political institutions as a means to check possible bureaucratic irresponsibilities. Still on the politics-administration dichotomy question, Danilo R. Reyes' examines the logical validity and relevance of such a dichotomy proposition to resurgent democracies like the Philippines in their quest for bureaucratic reform and normalcy.

The meaning of creative praxis, the transformative link between theory and practice, and its prospects for a generally conservative discipline

like public administration is explored by Luzviminda G. Tancangco in "Towards a Theory of Praxis in Public Administration: Meeting Current Challenges of Redemocratization in the Philippines." The election study series conducted by the UP College of Public Administration with Professor Tancangco as the principal investigator, are used as points of departure in creating a theory of praxis in public administration.

The second conference module focusses on "Post Revolution Administrative Reform." The articles revolve around the general efforts of the Aquino government to reform the politico-administrative system inherited from the previous regime. Nestor N. Pilar discusses the reorganization efforts of the Marcos regime as implemented by Presidential Commission on Reorganization and its Integrated Reorganization Plan vis-a-vis the Aquino administration's as implemented by the Presidential Commission on Government Reorganization.

Changes in the executive branch of the Philippine government are discussed in Maria Lourdes G. Rebullida's article "Reorganizing the Executive Branch of Government for Political Development: The Philippine Experience." Professor Rebullida focusses on the formal changes in the constitution, particularly on the form of government, the dynamics in the behavior of the chief executive, and the reorganization of the bureaucracy. Amelia P. Varela in "Civil Service Reforms for Merit and Political Neutrality: Agenda for Implementation" discusses the various reform efforts and strategies to uphold and strengthen merit and political neutrality in the bureaucracy, issues that have been particularly critical under the transition government.

Carolina Hernandez focusses on reform efforts in the police and military agencies which are major components of the public administrative system in "Reforming the Military and Police Agencies in the Philippines." Professor Hernandez operationalizes reform mainly in terms of reorienting the officers, men and women in this sector mainly in terms of recognizing the delineation between civilian and military functions and the principle of civilian supremacy over the military.

The conference's third module zeroed in on the "Private Sector and Public Administration." Romeo B. Ocampo's piece on "Privatization, Public Choice and Public Administration" looks into the issue of privatizing public enterprises as a basic strategy to promote economic recovery and sustained growth. Professor Ocampo argues that privatization policy has serious implications to Philippine public administration that, if indiscriminately applied, may help erode public confidence in government and if properly implemented, may contribute to the redemocratization process of the country. Amelia Ancog's article "Deregulation and Regulatory Process: Public Interest and Private Profit" examines regulatory processes which essentially empower the state to exercise control over the activities of individuals or business establishments. Professor Ancog discusses the rationale of regulation in the country and argues that such produces more costs than benefits and tends to encourage graft and corruption.

Armand V. Fabella writing on "Business in Government and Government in Business," justifies the continued operation of the government corporate sector. He explains that "business in government" concerns the task of improving both the operations and monitoring of government corporations worthy of retention, while "government in business" involves the identification and disposition of government corporate entities that should not be subject to government control.

The last article written by Leonor M. Briones, "The Morning After: Approaches to the Debt Crises," reviews the events which contributed to the exacerbation of the country's debt crises. Professor Briones discusses several possible solutions as proposed by various individuals or groups. Such solutions range from passive acceptance of terms to outright repudiation.