

Anti-Corruption Laws in the Philippines: Prospects for Reform

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The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act is but one of many different pieces of legislation enacted by Congress to address the problem of rampant corruption in today's society. Other statutes are the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and The Ombudsman Act of 1989, among others.

This Article looks into the quality and effectivity of the Philippines' anti-corruption laws. In order to do so, the Author presents a comparison between the state and quality of anti-corruption laws in the country and those from abroad. Legislation from countries such as Indonesia and Hong Kong are deemed effective models for local statutes against corruption. The Article showcases how foreign laws have efficiently and successfully lowered corruption rates in certain regions. This further highlights the flaws of local anti-corruption legislation, and provides suggestions on how such issues can be addressed. Other issues include problems on jurisdiction, as there are overlaps between the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman when it comes to the preliminary investigation of charges made against public officials.

The Article emphasizes the lack of legislation that holds private enterprises (such as partnerships, business organizations, and corporations) criminally liable for meting out bribes and/or corrupting public officials. The Author concludes that this lack of liability on their part has made it highly difficult for the State to curb corruption in the country, and makes recommendations with regard to the amendments that need to be made, in order to provide a stronger, more stable, and more reliable means to battle graft and corruption in Philippine government.