



Ateneo School of Government

The Graduate School of Leadership and Public Service

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE AREA: SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Strengthening Civil Society Engagement in Public Procurement Processes and Local Monitoring of Government Programs

OBJECTIVE

The specific objectives are to

- (1) Increase level of knowledge and awareness among civil society and government of CSOs in carrying out monitoring and observer functions relating to national and local government programs;
- (2) Further developing the capacity of CSOs and partner organizations involved in observing and assessing the conduct of public procurement processes;
- (3) Supporting the institutionalization of various independent local monitoring approaches in basic education sector;
- (4) Assessing different institutional options for providing funds to support the implementation and capacity development of CSOs in performing monitoring and observer functions.

OUTPUTS

- CSO database
- Procurement monitoring
- Terms of Engagement between DepEd and CSOs
- Options paper
- Furniture delivery and School Building Construction Monitoring

Project Period: June 2011 to March 2013

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The new Aquino Administration has opened the door for wider citizen participation in governance in the Philippines.

Despite this more positive environment, civil society programs and activities remain fragmented, ad hoc and reactive, and often do not connect well with government-supported reform or governance initiatives. To capitalize on these new opportunities for enhancing governance, effort is now needed to bridge the gap in understanding the working relationship between CSOs and government in general, and for CSOs to take the initiative and respond proactively.

The main outcome of the project is to strengthen the functional capacity of civil society in observing public procurement processes and conducting independent local monitoring activities of government programs and projects.

The project will have five components:

- 1) Mapping and assessing the functional capacity of civil society organizations for local monitoring
- 2) Citizen monitoring of public procurement processes
- 3) Independent local monitoring partnerships for basic education
- 4) Options for funding CSOs to monitor, observe and assess government programs
- 5) School-based monitoring and participatory audit initiative