ADHERENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE PROPRIETY OF SERVICE
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Government officials perform one of the most significant roles in the society in which they establish and maintain society’s stability, protection of safety, promoting peace and order and educating people in many aspects of living such as in livelihood, health and education. They are also expected to act accordingly with the norms and standards of the society in which they are expected to meet the highest ethical standards in fulfilling the responsibilities.

According to The Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, it was stated that in recognition that public office involves, public trust, public service agencies, public sector entities and public officials seek to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector and are committed to the highest ethical standards; accept and value their duty to provide advice which is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial; show respect towards all persons, including employees, clients and the general public; acknowledge the primacy of the public interest and undertake that any conflict of interest issue will be resolved or appropriately managed in favour of the public interest; and are committed to honest, fair and respectful engagement with the community.

The abovementioned ethics were formulated to systematize principled standards in order for the government officials to determine appropriate attitude and behaviour in engagements with different situations such as working with other employees, serving the public and dealing with difficult circumstances which is part of their service. But the most highlighted portrayal of a public servant is working with integrity and honesty.

Further, an excerpt from the editorial of The Manila Times on July 20, 2015 entitled ‘Return to the basics of honest and ethical government’ stated that from the book Honest Government (Praeger, 192), the authors W. J. Michael Cody and Richardson R. Lynn have
admiringly distilled and codified the basic principles of public service ethics that are observed in most modern democracies.

There are six principles stated such as public officials must not lie, cheat, or steal in any official capacity; must always be careful to avoid even the appearance of impropriety; should be as productive as possible; must not allow zeal for their duties; should cooperate with other officials and agencies; and should perform their duties based solely on the public good.

Indeed, a government official doesn’t only need to be hardworking and able to finish his or her work on time but should also be acknowledge in being fair, truthful, has firm adherence to a code of moral values and was able fulfil the duties and responsibilities without any violations to the ethic values of being a public servant. Also, the public figure of these officials should be carved from the traditional values that are still living at the present times.

Integrity and honesty are the two powerful attributes of being a successful public servant and without fairness and truth, success cannot be counted as a real one because a genuine civil society is engraved by the labor and exertion of government officials who are living based from the moral principles or rules of good conduct.

References: