COMBATING CORRUPTION THROUGH INTEGRATING STRUCTURED PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

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In every educational institution, there is a need to upgrade facilities, purchase necessary materials and equipment and be provided of essential maintenance for the school to function efficiently. As part of governmental institution, public schools commonly gain their resources through the financial support from the government. Since public schools are utilizing public funds, they are required to undergo legal process before they will be granted of school fund or any form of resources. One of the steps that they need to undertake is to accomplish necessary documents that are required for the procurement process.

According to Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), procurement is commonly defined as the acquisition of appropriate goods and/or service at the best possible price to meet the needs of the purchaser in terms of quality and quantity, time and location. As to the procurement process, it will start from the purchasers wherein they will identify their needs and this process ends when the product or service has been consumed or the supplier or contractor is paid in full.

There are studies from the past regarding the Philippine procurement system wherein it was stated that it was becoming a yielding ground for corruption. As was reported by the Senate Economic Planning Office (2008), based on the government’s own estimates, P22 billion is lost each year in government spending due to corruption in procurement. Due to the problems that were manifesting in the procurement system in the country, it resulted to the enactment of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA) of 2003, signed by former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on January 2003.
The law was also implemented to schools through DepEd Order No. 74 series of 2016 of the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 that took effect on October 28, 2016. In view of this, all DepEd Procuring Entities are enjoined to fully comply with 2016 Revised IRR in all its procurement activities. All of the expenditures for the school year must be included in their project procurement management plan (PPMP) in order to have more systematized process of spending school expenses.

The GPRA should be strictly implemented in schools in order to address issues in the system such as procurement-related corruptions, lack of transparency, inefficiency, underspending and other poor practices that may lead to the development of governmental units and agencies. It also aims to standardize procedures, enhance end-product quality and contractor reliability, ensure proper planning and budgeting and to foster competition.

Therefore, the procurement processes and decisions must be delivered properly in order to avoid legal challenges from suppliers and contractors and financial penalties that may negatively affect the reputation of the school. Although schools have autonomy over the use of their budget, it is still necessary to practice transparency and wise spending in order to avoid suspicions and other malpractices with regards to the utilization of school fund.

References:

https://www.philgeps.gov.ph/GEPSNONPILOT/aboutGEPS/aboutGEPS.aspx?menuIndex=5