OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY: KEYS TO PUBLIC TRUST
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Being a government employee comes with a lot of expectations because this job requires you to serve people. As a person whose job is to prioritize the welfare of citizens, it is a must to possess desirable characteristics in order to show an excellent performance that will create a good impact in your workplace and to the lives of people you are serving to as well. Since being a government employee needs to be trustworthy, transparency and openness must be practiced and must be given priority.

According to Joseph Lucco, transparency is best fostered when citizens can access and read through the information in an easy-accessible format. When a strategic plan is added online in plain sight, citizens feel more comfortable that their local government is on target for a short and long-term goal. This means that the government employees, when disseminating information, must make it more accessible and less complicated for the citizens in order for them to effectively understand how their municipality or city is doing.

Government employees must also be open when it comes to taxes being paid by the people. They must inform the citizens regarding the projects and expenses of the city or municipality so that they will have an idea where their taxes are going. This practice also spares them from the speculations and doubts among people because this enables them to gain public trust. This also avoids any form of corruption as long as the information being disseminated to the people are not fabricated.

In fact, it was stated in the Republic Act No. 6713, Sec. 4 € that “…public officials and employees shall provide information of their policies and procedures in clear and understandable language, ensure openness of information, public consultations and hearings whenever appropriate”. Even the law says that there should be openness of information to the public because it is their right to know since they are the reason why there are government funds for different projects and programs and the salary given to the public employees.
Openness and transparency can be practiced through posting information and updates on municipal or city websites so that the things they need to know can be easily accessed. Social media platforms can also be considered since these were usually used daily by the citizens. Aside from these, they may also provide transparency boards so that the public will have an access with regards to the activities, projects and expenses of the municipality of city.

Further, Joel Turkewitz said that “a well-held belief in development circles is that, in broad terms, transparency leads to greater accountability and often, as a result, reduced corruption.” No citizen would want that public funds will be corrupted because they pay taxes in order for them to have a better living in a town or city where they live in. As government employees, it is their task to utilize the funds in productive and beneficial ways and one of the ways to assure that they perform their jobs honestly, transparency is the key.

We cannot deny the fact that in the Philippines, many public officials and employees do not practice giving information to the public. Many of them lack transparency and openness but this should not be tolerated nor imitated. As government employees, they must know that one of the nature of their job is to gain public trust. It won’t make them less as persons if they will deviate from the wrongdoings of many people who are in the same field because after all, the essence of government employee is not about the money they will have in their service but the trust they have gained from the public.

References:

