CITIZEN PARTICIPATORY AUDIT: Tool for Transparency & Accountability and an Anti-Corruption Measure

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Introduction

1. The birth of the Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA) – November 26, 2012:
   - Volunteerism in the Philippine Constitution
   - The Volunteer Act of 2007
   - The COA’s mandate
   - Commitment to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

2. Participatory pilot audits, capacity building, and policy formulation
   - With technical assistance from development partners

3. Institutionalization:
   - In the national budget
   - Office managing the CPA was created
   - Policy institutionalizing the CPA issued
   - In the COA’s Strategic Plan up to 2022
   - In the Philippine National Action Plan for OGP
What is Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA)?

1. A technique in conducting audits with citizens / civil society as members of audit teams of the Commission on Audit.
CPA Activities

Examples of Citizen Participatory Audit Engagements

- KAMANAVA Flood Control Project (DPWH)
- Barangay Health Centers (Marikina City)
- Solid Waste Management (16 cities, 1 municipality of NCR)
- Farm-to-Market Roads
- Tourism Roads Infrastructure Projects
What is Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA)?

2 A mechanism for sharing of aspirations, goals, and objectives between the COA and civil society
CPA Dialogues

COA officials, citizens/civil society organizations meet to share and co-create goals, objectives, and agenda.
What is Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA)?

3
A technique for citizen/civil society partnership in other areas of the COA’s work
CPA Activities

Participatory policy formulation

Operational Guidelines in the pilot phase

COA Resolution No. 2018 – 006
dated 1 Feb 2018

Institutionalizing the CPA
CPA Activities

Capacity building

- Understanding the COA & the basics of the public audit process (COA 101)
- Understanding civil society organizations (CSO 101)
- How to conduct audit of specific topics
- Data analytics and visualization
- Geotagging
Simplification of audit reports

The 1-page Audit in Brief
Simplification of audit reports

The People’s CPA Report

Ecological Solid Waste Management Program of the LGUs in the National Capital Region 2014

A visual presentation of the Narrative CPA Report
What is Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA)?

A strategy for reform – to make civil society more involved in governance; founded on the premise that public accountability can prosper only with a vigilant and involved citizenry,
... after all, democracy is not just FOR the people; it is also BY the people.
OUTCOMES: Transparency

Citizens better understand & appreciate:
• government operations, and
• the public audit process

Documents which are otherwise only for the eyes of the state auditors were made available to citizen-auditors
OUTCOMES: Accountability & Anti-corruption

Auditees implement audit recommendations faster when citizen-auditors are part of the audit team.

Citizens are empowered to articulate their sentiments on government services with citizen-auditors in the audit team.
OUTCOME: COA complies with ISSAI 12

- COA, as a supreme audit institution, demonstrates its ongoing relevance to citizens per International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) 12

- Citizen-auditors and their civil society organizations strengthen COA’s audit teams
An important gain of the CPA

Anthony Septimo

- Former critic of COA
- Became a Citizen-Auditor in the CPA of KAMANAVA Flood Control Project
- Now, a staunch champion of COA

“I truly believe that good governance is never the sole responsibility of the government. The best approach to combating corruption and making good governance work is constructive engagement between government and its citizens. I am happy to be part of the CPA where I saw firsthand this dynamics at work.”
Suggestions, comments, questions will help us grow.

Thank you

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