

RITA MARY P. MEDIANTE

03 August 2009

UP NCPAG

Flag Raising Ceremony

**THE RELEVANCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN CHANGING
GOVERNMENT**

Greetings:

To our Dean, Dr. Alex Brillantes, College Secretary Prof. Dan Saguil, Dr. Ebie Florano, members and officers of STPA, PALS, Pagdumala, other student organizations, personnel and staff, students, friends and guests, good morning.

When Dr. Ebie Florano informed me that STPA as the organizing group for this event is inviting me to grace this very wonderful flag raising ceremony, my feeling was both excitement and nervousness. Excitement because it is my very first time to speak before the audience in my beloved College. Nervousness because I will be speaking before intelligent and critical-thinking people, the cream of the crop of our country.

I was told that my message should be short yet inspiring. Since I joined the legislative branch of government 16 years ago, one of my first jobs was writing lectures, speeches, and pieces of legislation that were obviously lengthy and voluminous. Thus, preparing for this short message, exacted toughness on how to write short, talk brief yet should leave indelible inspiration to each and everyone of you today.

Let me begin by saying that my solid 16 years in the Congress of the Philippines has made me realize that public administration is a social science discipline that remains relevant especially in the changing of government since commonwealth period, transition to republican government, installation of dictatorship and the restoration of democratic government through the first people power 1986 EDSA Revolution.

When the 1986 EDSA Revolution erupted, I was only a senior high school student then in the province of Mindanao. As a student leader, I was told to organize my classmates to support the growing mass of people gathering at EDSA, which is now known as the EDSA Shrine.

Clueless as I was 23 years ago, that gathering of Filipinos at EDSA was the end of the dictatorship and the beginning of the restoration of democracy we now have. Whether or not you will agree with me that we have democracy today, that I leave to your better judgment. But the democracy that I mean here is the restoration of the democratic processes and institutions like the electoral system, re-convening of the Congress of the Philippines, the restoration of the judicial system, among others. This also includes the exercise of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, notwithstanding the pervading power of mass communication and media.

The passing away of former Pres. Corazon C. Aquino led us once more to reflect on the gains of the monumental non-violent revolution, where people protected the military who was once the cohort in declaring martial law. It was the same military that people protected and dismantled the dictatorship swiftly and bloodlessly.

The role of public administration in changing government is to provide stability in the institutions and democratic processes when leaders are overtaken by partisan politics agenda and party squabbling. Public administration is the oasis of strength and stability of a nation that is in peril when public service becomes a hostage of personal ambition in the cloak of public office. Public administration is both the foundation and the pillar in managing the affairs of the people by those who were entrusted to govern in the pursuit of the best interest and welfare of the governed.

Thus, as students of public administration, you too very soon will become practitioners of public administration. Very soon you will join either the civil service force or the private sector. Either way, you will also realize, just as I have realized that public administration is a discipline that remains relevant in whatever vocation we choose, be it public or private service. You will soon appreciate the dynamism of public

administration that pervades in every strand in the meaning of nationhood and the value of public service, just like the emblem of our oblation --- dedication of oneself to selfless service God, to our country and to our people.

In closing, I would like to share with you that through the 16 years of my profession, my superiors and my colleagues can always tell that I am a graduate of public administration. And that is because I am a graduate of this prestigious national college of public administration and governance where students are trained to become not just leaders but as **BEST LEADERS AND GOOD FOLLOWERS**.

Thank you for giving me this rare opportunity. God bless our University, our College, and foremost our country.

Good morning!