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CO210-07

Community Issue Essay

Topic: Government Corruption

Community Issue question: What impact does government corruption make in its community ?

Community speech: Government Corruption

First of all what is corruption? It is a form of dishonesty or criminal offense undertaken by a person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one’s private gain.In order to have a leader, we have to give our full trust and support for the most credible candidate to step up in the government. We expected them to be trustworthy inorder to have a good and safe community. Throughout the years in the CNMI there are government officials involved concerning the issue of corruption and it has impacted its governing community. The former Governor Benigno R. Fitial, and the latest Governor Ralph Torres with its issue involving the casino.

The year 2013 Governor Benigno R. Fitial was impeached by the house of representatives and pressed charges in relation to neglect of duty and corruption and was pleaded guilty. Superior Court Judge David Wisemen stated that “The defendant (Gov. Benigno R. Fitial) treated the time, money and resources of the CNMI's law enforcement agencies as his own private property and dispatched the good men and women who serve our community away from their duties to protect the public, with the express purpose of breaking the law," (“Fitial”). He also neglected his duty, where in the evening of his Inauguration the former Governor ordered the release of his personal misseuse, a federal prisoner in a detention facility and invited her to his house for a personal massage. However, instead of facing the consequences, the defendant arranged a coordinated effort to actively interfere with the ongoing criminal process. Fled to treat his sickness which is typeII diabetes With his issue it impacted the community and harmed their trust in the government.

Also, shocking news that was recently heard from last year of december was the issue of our latest governor. There were allegations of public corruption, fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. “This comes a little over a month after the FBI executed multiple search warrants on Saipan, including at Torres’ office on Capitol Hill and the office of the island’s exclusive casino operator, Imperial Pacific International” (Pacific Daily News). By the search Governor Torres said “request is a “coordinated attack” against him and called it an “obsession” to take him down without regard for legal action” (Pacific Daily News). As what Saipan Tribune reported, “On a per capita basis” the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Island would be one of the highest rate of federal criminal convictions “among all the jurisdictions in the United States”. Asia Sentinel also mentioned the FBI’s raid in the offices of the Imperial Palace Casino as well as Governor Torres’s house and office for possible fraud of the government's budget. The casino is one of the highest tax payers in the CNMI and bills have been implemented and changed to suit the Casino’s standing in Saipan. The huge loss of the Casinos took a huge blow on Saipan’s economy and prompted the government to austerity measures said by Coskun in Asian Sentinel. Because of such loss, Imperial Pacific was forced to release hundreds of their workers that they took overseas, legal or illegally.

These are the issues regarding the concerned corruption in the CNMI. The people entrust everything to their leader in order to have a good community. But then money is too blinding and power is too overwhelming, the leaders tend to spend things they do not suppose to own. Apart from these problems, people are still hoping for a change. Corruption is a one big mistake to commit unto, it will be the downfall of what they have worked for. People from the high seats must be wise in order to be respected.

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