

Testimony of Donald A. Gambatesa  
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Office of the Inspector General  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Before the  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Biden, Members of the Committee, I am truly honored to be nominated by President Bush for the position of Inspector General at the U.S. Agency for International Development and to be here before you today. Because this position also encompasses the Inspector General responsibilities for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the African Development Foundation, and the Inter-American Foundation, my remarks today relative to this nomination address the Inspector General's responsibility to all four client organizations.

If confirmed, I will be joining an Agency that is the world's leader in development and disaster assistance. This Agency, along with the three other client organizations, have ambitious programs of development and relief that are changing the lives of millions throughout the world. This aid from the American people brings hope, stability, and opportunity to those most in need. To execute this responsibility effectively, the programs and operations must be sound, verifiable, and produce results that the American people and the Congress expect.

The Office of Inspector General has many opportunities to partner with the Agency and support its mission. The audit program under the OIG is one of the most effective management tools available to the Agency. When used properly, it can identify program weaknesses and recommend solutions before they become problems. Equally important, the results of an audit program can show what is working well, thereby identifying best practices that could be used in other Agency programs.

A strong investigation program ensures that enacted legislation, regulation and rules are enforced. Used together, audit and investigation services can be effective in developing programmatic recommendations for management's consideration and increasing awareness among Agency personnel for improved operations.

USAID faces many challenges in carrying out its mission, especially in fragile states and crisis environments. The risks to program integrity are heightened in such environments where political or social instability and the lack of controls can often lead to resource abuse. If confirmed, I intend to ensure that the office is diligent in providing the needed support to the Agency in those areas, and that we are proactive in the fight against fraud, waste and abuse wherever Agency programs and operations may be.

For the past 30 years, I have held positions of trust and responsibility within the Federal Government. I served as a Special Agent in the U.S. Secret Service for more than 24 years where I held several leadership positions.

In 2000, I assumed the position of Agent-In-Charge of the Special Investigations Division at USAID Office of Inspector General.

In 2001, I was appointed by the Attorney General to serve as the Deputy Director of the U.S. Marshals Service. I currently share responsibility with the Director for over 4,700 employees, including over 3,000 U.S. Marshals, Deputy Marshals, and criminal investigators located in 94 districts and in 3 overseas offices. Our appropriation for salary and expenses of over \$740 million in FY 2005 funds programs for judicial security, fugitive investigations, witness security, prisoner security and transportation and asset forfeiture.

Throughout my career, I have worked to enforce the law and improve operations and programs. I know that the ultimate goal – economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of programs is a shared responsibility. I believe that the ultimate success of the OIG can be assured when a positive and collaborative approach is primary in working with management.

I welcome the challenges this position would bring and should I be confirmed as USAID Inspector General, I will carry out the duties of this office with high standards of independence and ensure objective and relevant OIG reporting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Committee Members for considering my nomination at this hearing. This concludes my statement. I would be pleased to respond to questions from you or the Committee.