What is Good Governance?

Before understanding what good governance is, let us first define what “governance” is. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, *“Governance is the way that a city, company, etc., is controlled by the people who run it.”*. Having governance over the public doesn’t always necessarily mean having a decent community. If people are ruled with corruption and immorality, then, society will be in disorder. That is where the “good” in Good Governance come into play.

Good Governance is the process of decision-making on arriving on the best possible solutions or measures in governing the community by proper usage of its resources, whether national or municipal level, which gives the most benefit, and then employing it.

Importance of Good Governance

Good governance plays a large role in maintaining a functioning community. A community governed efficiently will give its people an increase in confidence. The viewpoint of the public towards their leaders will have a positive impact. And vice versa, a community leader will also gain confidence from seeing its constituents pleased towards their governance. Gaining such confidence on both parties will lead to an increasing involvement in maintaining a good community because achieving good governance does not only involve the leaders, but also the participation of the public.

Characteristics of Good Governance

According to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, good governance has eight (8) characteristics: Participatory, Follows the Rule of Law, Transparent, Responsive, Consensus Oriented, Equitable and Inclusive, Effective and Efficient, and Accountable.

1. Participatory – a good form of governance is achieved through the active participation of both the government and the public.
2. Rule of Law – governance is enforced legally and impartially to protect the rights of the people.
3. Transparent – every decision made and implemented should be readily available to the public with information in any medium.
4. Responsive – services are provided within a timeframe.
5. Consensus Oriented – by understanding the different needs of each group, the interests of the many will be reached in a reasonable method.
6. Equitable and inclusive – every member of the community should have some equal rights in participating and never left behind in the decision-making process.
7. Effective and Efficient – one purpose of good governance is to manage and use available resources effectively and efficiently.
8. Accountable – both the public and its government should be responsible in every decisions and actions that are made.