



## ADELA B. CORTEZ

State Auditor II  
Commission on Audit – Province of Nueva Vizcaya  
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya  
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The Commission on Audit's vision is to "promote good governance with the attributes of honesty, transparency, accountability, credibility, efficiency and effectiveness to enhance trust in the government and foster a better quality of life for the Filipino people." Adela Cortez is one of those employees who embody this vision.

As a State Auditor in the Commission, honesty has always been the top priority for Cortez. Being in the service for 14 years, Cortez can easily detect anomalous transactions. Throughout her term as State Auditor, she has received several threats to her life but instead of backing off, she courageously fights for the truth and does not stop until the perpetrator has been caught.

In 2002, she was able to uncover unliquidated cash advances amounting to almost P6 million in the Municipality of Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya, which could have been spent for the Municipality's projects. Despite the risks that the outcome might pose, Cortez still continued to pursue the audit and fearlessly submitted her report, resulting in the persecution of certain influential officials.

Another proof of her unwavering bravery and honesty was when she exposed alleged robbery of funds amounting to P650,000 in 2002 in the same municipality.

For all these accomplishments and more, she was recognized as the "Most outstanding woman of COA". She was described by her supervisor as very industrious as she works even on Saturdays, holidays, Sundays without additional remuneration just to beat deadlines.

Cortez is a testimony that there are still people like her in the service who put her life in the line of duty, if it would bring about the betterment of the institution and the country. She has uplifted the COA's image, as well as the image of civil servants. •

