

Department of Justice
2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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2006 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (OSEC)

The Department of Justice derives its functions from Executive Order No. 292 otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987. It is mandated to uphold the rule of law and ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice. It acts as the principal law agency and legal counsel of the government.

The Secretary of Justice, assisted by his three (3) Undersecretaries, three (3) Assistant Secretaries, the Chief State Prosecutor, The Chief State Counsel, the Board of Pardons and Parole, and support services namely the Technical Staff, Financial and Management Service, Administrative Service and Management Services Office, accomplished the following from January 1 up to December 31, 2006:

NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE (NPS)

The NPS was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1275 otherwise known as the National Prosecution Law.

The Chief State Prosecutor assists the Secretary in the performance of powers and functions of the Department relative to its role as the prosecution arm of the government; in implementing the provisions of laws, executive orders and rules, and carrying out the policies, plans, programs and projects of the Department relative to the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases; in exercising supervision and control over the NPS; and in performing such other functions as provided by law or assigned by the Secretary.

Disposition of Cases

For the year 2006, the NPS handled a total of about 400,000 cases for preliminary investigation which constitutes the bulk of the workload of prosecutors. With 1,782 prosecutors by the end of 2006, the prosecutor—case ratio pertaining to preliminary investigation can be deduced to an average of one prosecutor handling 225 cases for the entire year.

Out of the said preliminary investigation caseload, about 315,000 cases were resolved, resulting to a disposition rate of 79%, which is slightly higher than the 76% disposition rate in year 2005.

Aside from the regular operations and service delivery of the NPS, it also supported the government's major programs against criminality through the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases, strengthening its coordinative efforts with investigation and law enforcement agencies:

Anti-Terrorism Campaign

- Case against suspected Abu Sayyaf bomber Ali Ambing;
- Charges against suspected members of the Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist group, Haji Hamid Zulmahid aka Hamid Zulmahid Nasser et al allegedly responsible for the bombing of some parts of Mindanao, with the DOJ asking for the transfer of venue from Cotabato Regional Trial Court to Metro Manila;
- Re-investigation of rebellion charges against former ARMM Governor Nur Misuari;
- Murder and multiple murder charges against MILF chieftain Al-Haj Murad and 21 other suspects including top Indonesian terror suspects Dulmatin and Omar Patek and a Pakistani national (Murad's name was later on dropped from the information sheet due to insufficiency of evidence);
- Murder charges against CPP leader Jose Ma. Sison and 37 others for the alleged executions of military informers.

Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign

- Charges against Imam Boratong, alleged operator of the dismantled shabu “tiangge” in Pasig City;
- Charges against PDEA Officer Supt. Jerome Mutia for allegedly conspiring with six others in stealing P35 million worth of shabu from the PDEA's evidence and custodial room;
- Case against four Chinese nationals in connection with the raid of a clandestine shabu laboratory in Dingalan town.

Campaign Against Destabilization

- Coup d' etat charges against former Senator Gringo Honasan, et al.;
- Rebellion charges against 45 persons implicated in a leftist-rightist-military conspiracy, including the “Batasan 5”;
- Illegal possession of firearms and explosives against Magdalo escapees Lt. Sarmiento, et al.;
- Mutiny charges against Trillianes et al for the failed Oakwood mutiny;
- Rebellion charges against Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

Media Killings

- Ambush-killing of photojournalist Albert Orsolino;
- Reinstated case against Osmena Montaner and Estrella Sabay, chief finance officer and chief accountant of the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao, the alleged masterminds in journalist Marlene Esparat murder case (earlier, the court convicted Estanislao Bismaros a.k.a Jun Brown, Gerry Cabayag and Randy Grecia for the crime);
- Murder charges against Rommel Librasan, Rolando Manaog, Franklin Sabe et al for the killing of photojournalist Alberto Orsolino;
- Charges against Mayor Alfredo Arcenio of Aklan for the alleged killing of Bombo Radyo Kalibo station manager Herson “Boy” Hinolan.

Run-After-Tax Evaders (RATE) Campaign

- Continuing trial of tax evasion case against businessman Lucio Tan;
- Charges against the owners of Mega sardines for alleged underdeclaration of taxes amounting to more than P70 million;
- Charges against Jadewell Parking Systems Corporation and its president Rogelio Tan.

Other significant cases handled by the NPS are the following:

- ULTRA stampede incident;
- Rape case against four (4) US Marines which earned the NPS conviction of one of the accused Smith;
- Continuing trial of the murder case of actress Nida Blanca; plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada; and the Dacer-Corbito double murder case; and
- Conviction of Roberto Lumagui and Joel Albay in connection with the killing of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos.

LEGAL STAFF

The Legal Staff was created under Republic Act No. 2705 (*An Act Prescribing the Duties and Qualifications, and Fixing the Number and Salaries of the Members of the Legal Staff in the Office of the Secretary of Justice*) dated 18 June 1960, as amended. Its mandate under Executive Order No. 292 (*Administrative Code of 1987*) is to, among others, assist the Secretary of Justice in the performance of his duties as Attorney-General of the Philippines and as ex-officio legal adviser of government-owned or controlled corporations or enterprises and their subsidiaries and to prepare and finally act for and in behalf of the Secretary on all queries and/or requests for legal advice or guidance coming from private parties, and other officials and employees of the government.

Legal Opinions Rendered

For the period covered, it was able to prepare **356** opinions (including memoranda/comments/legal studies) on general questions of law. Significant is its contribution in the review and advice on matters of foreign borrowings, international agreements/treaties, proposed legislations, and on behalf of different national government functionaries, including the Office of the President, various legislative committees, and officials of the Department of Justice.

The Legal Staff also prepared **11,816** decisions/orders/resolutions in aid of the Secretary of Justice's exercise of adjudicatory power/jurisdiction/appellate or revisory authority concerning controversies between/among government agencies (under P.D. 242, now Sections 66 to 71, Chapter 14, Book III of the 1987 Administrative Code), constitutionality/legality of municipal tax ordinances, grant of special non-immigrant visas and exemption from the Anti-Dummy Law, issuance/lifting of hold departure orders (HDOs) and citizenship cases transmitted by the Bureau of Immigration to the Department of Justice for review, and processed applications for recognition of refugee status as well as handled requests for extradition and/or mutual legal assistance to or from countries with extradition and/or mutual legal assistance treaties with the Philippines.

In addition, the Legal Staff issued for and in behalf of the Secretary of Justice, **107** replies and/or legal advice at the instance of private parties and minor government officials and employees and prepared **394** legal studies/working drafts for ad-hoc bodies/committees of which they are members in representation of the Secretary or of the Department of Justice.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties

The DOJ, through the Legal Staff, is the central authority of the Republic of the Philippines in mutual legal assistance and extradition treaties, and it handles requests for extradition and/or mutual legal assistance to or from countries with extradition and/or mutual legal assistance treaties with the Philippines and represent treaty partners in Philippine courts. It is also involved in several aspects involving international cooperation such as the drafting and implementation of legislations, rules, regulations and agreements as well as in the negotiation of extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties on criminal matters. The DOJ Anti-Money Laundering Desk (DOJ-AML), represented by the Legal Staff also works in close coordination with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) in its task of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Investment and Trade Agreements

The Legal Staff is also involved in the negotiations of various investment and trade agreements such as the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), ASEAN-Australia New Zealand (ASEAN-ANZ) and ASEAN-India. The Department acts as the lead negotiator for the Dispute Settlement Mechanism chapter of the said agreements.

DOJ Refugee Processing Unit

Pursuant to the obligations of the Philippines as a signatory to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, the DOJ-Refugee Processing Unit (DOJ-RPU) was established in March 1988, with the Legal Staff acting as determination officers to handle the processing of applications for recognition of refugee status. Prior to the establishment of the DOJ-RPU, it was the United Nations High Commissioner or Refugees (UNHRC) who performs the refugee status determination.

Specifically, the Legal Staff assisted various national government functionaries in resolving difficult questions of law attending the performance of their respective functions through the preparation of opinions which have great economic, social and political implications, relating to the interpretation of different laws. Some of the significant opinions rendered for the period covered are the following:

- The grant by the TRB to qualified entities, through the execution of a Toll Operation Certificate (TOC) under Section 3 (a) and (c) of P.D. No. 1112, as amended, is a valid grant of an administrative authority to the Qualified Entity to undertake the toll facility project subject to the TOC, without the need of a legislative franchise. Upon the expiration of PNCC's legislative franchise to "construct, maintain and operate the NSLE" on 21 May 2007, the TOC which the TRB may issue to the PNCC and its JV partner is an entirely new authorization, this time, for the operation and maintenance of the NSLE, an already existing toll facility. (Opn. No. 1)
- Pursuant to the Water Supply Agreement (WSA) between the Ayala-Stateland Consortium and Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD), the Consortium is a private enterprise since the public has no legal right to demand to receive service from the Consortium. (Opn. No. 12)
- LGUs can establish banks or non-bank financial institutions, or at the very least, invest in the equities of banks or other financial institutions. (Opn. No. 18)
- The DOTC/LTO has the primary legal authority under the Administrative Code, Land Transportation and Traffic Code, as well as the Insurance Code, to issue and implement a new program/system for the authentication of compulsory third party liability (CTPL) insurance in the registration of all motor vehicles. (Opn. No. 19)
- Under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) is not authorized to deputize another government agency to exercise its authority to inquire into bank accounts. (Opn. No. 31)
- The Department agrees with the steps taken by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in terminating the Machine Readable Passport and Visa Project and find that there is basis in law and fact. (Opn. No. 35)

Representations in Inter-agency Committees

The members of the Legal Staff also represented the Department in the following inter-agency committees:

1. Privatization Council Technical Committee
2. Technical Working Group of the GRP-NDF and GRP-MILF Peace Panels
3. Inter-Agency Committee on Children Involved in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC), Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP)
4. National TWG on Civil and Political Rights (GRP-RPM-P/RPA/ABB Peace Agreement)
5. Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee (GRP-RPM-P/RPA/ABB Peace Agreement)
6. Presidential Committee for the Grant of Bail, Release or Pardon (PCGBReP) Secretariat Meeting
7. Presidential Human Rights Committee
8. Special Committee for the Protection of Children (SCPC)
9. Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) Technical Management Committee
10. Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)
11. Inter-Agency Committee on the Review of Foreign Loan Documents
12. Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Land Administration Management Project (LAMP)
13. National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (NALECC) Subcommittee on Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Terrorist Financing
14. NALECC Subcommittee on Environment
15. Inter-Agency Committee on Milk Advertisements
16. Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center (MOAC)
17. Meetings on the amendments to the Philippine Baselines Law
18. Technical Working Group for the ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
19. National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), Subcommittee on Accessibility and Telecommunications (SCAT)

20. National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) Technical Working Group
21. Dangerous Drugs Board Supply Reduction Committee
22. Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Monthly Meetings
23. Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)
24. National Water Resources Board (NWRB)
25. Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM)
26. Judicial and Bar Council (JBC)
27. Negotiations on Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Areas (FTAs)
28. Access to Justice for the Poor Project.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE (BPP)

The BPP is tasked with the duty of choosing those who should be released on parole and serves as the recommendatory arm of the President in the grant of pardon and other forms of executive clemency. It performed its duties efficiently with the meager complement of **43** personnel, as can be seen in the high rate of work disposition.

For 2006, the Board's deliberated on a total of **5,302** prisoners' carpetas resulting in the issuance of **5,197** resolutions, **2,260** of which were granted parole; **11**, conditional pardon and **1**, absolute pardon. The remaining **2,925** were deferred/denied parole and executive clemency due to some compliance issues as prescribed under the 2006 Revised Manual on Parole and Executive Clemency. The Board has **105** pending carpetas, which were received only on the last week of December 2006. Disposition rate for this indicator was at **98.02%**.

The Board handled **2,882** Summary Reports on incidents to supervision of parolees/pardonees whom the Board reaches thru its service arm, the Technical Service under the Parole and Probation Administration. Of this number, the Board issued resolutions on **1,914** cases for Final Release and Discharge; **953** were either filed/acknowledged or verified. Disposition rate for this indicator was at **99.48%**. It also received **994** infraction reports of which **509** were issued resolutions; **462** were either filed/acknowledged or verified. Disposition rate for this indicator is **97.69%**.

In the case of transfer of residence, the Board received **815** requests for confirmation resulting in the issuance of resolutions to **412**; **390** were either filed/acknowledged or verified. Disposition rate for this indicator is **98.40%**.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The implementation of the Department's mandate is further enhanced by the following special programs:

WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY & BENEFIT PROGRAM (WPSBP)

The WPSBP was established under Republic Act No. 6981 otherwise known as "*The Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act*". Under the program, the government seeks to encourage a person who has witnessed or has knowledge of the commission of a crime to testify before a court of quasi-judicial body, or before an investigating authority, by protecting him from reprisals and from economic dislocation.

The Program has remarkably expanded its operation through the years since its inception in 1991 with only six (6) admissions then. For 2006, a record of **209** applications were filed with the Program. All of the said applications were acted upon. As of 2006, the Program had under its coverage **553** witnesses nationwide. As a general rule, dependents of covered witnesses extend up to the second civil degree. Hence, this translates to additional warm bodies to feed, secure, transport, educate, and care for. The Program obtained **53** convictions in **55** important cases utilizing **50** covered witnesses, thereby posting an impressive conviction rate of **96.36%** for the period under review.

Some of the Program's special concerns are:

Media murder case

The Program was able to secure the conviction of PO3 Guillermo Wapile, the accused in the murder of Ely Binoya and Edgar Damalerio through the testimony of its witnesses. Another conviction of the accused in the killing of photojournalist Allan Dizon was also achieved through the testimony of its other witness.

U.S. Rewards for Justice Program

The US government paid US\$1M to informants/witnesses crucial to the capture of Abu Sayyaf Group leader Hamsiraji Sali killed in a shootout with the AFP on 8 April 2004. With extensive media coverage, it will encourage potential informants/witnesses to come forward with information on Khadaffy Janjalani, Jainal Antel Sali (Abu Solaiman) and Isnilon Hapilon who carry a US\$5M reward each, and other ASG leaders still at large further enhancing the government's anti-terrorism campaign.

Support for Anti-Terrorism Cases

The prosecution succeeded in securing convictions in cases against Hector Janjalani, Mohammad Amin Ajijon for the kidnapping in Jolo of Jeffrey Schilling through the cooperation and testimony of witnesses under the Program; MILF Commander Tahir Alonto; and other accused. Abu Sayyaf members responsible for the beheading of innocent civilians in Basilan have likewise been meted the death penalty and sent to the National Penitentiary by the RTC of Basilan. Among them are Kamar Jaafar, Wahid Salcedo, Abdurahman Diolagla, Abdulajid Ngayah, Haber Asari, Absmar Aluk, Bashier Abdul, Totting Craft Hannu aka Abu Jakaria, JAid Awalal, Mobbin Iba aka Abu Black, Margani Hapilon aka Abu Nadim, Lidjalon Sakandal, Imran Hakim, Nadzmer Isnani Mandangan, Ibrahim Bowak, Mudas Sabinul, Abdullah Uwa, Daud Indaling, Etang Awal, Abu Teng, Abu Umbra and Bashier Ordones.

Plunder Trial Witnesses

Security risk level on plunder trial witnesses has been assessed to remain high with the current destabilization efforts against government by certain interest groups. Thus, the anticipated downgrading of security services on the witnesses after they testify can not be undertaken without jeopardizing their security and safety.

Human Trafficking Cases

The Program obtained maximum sentences against ring leaders Hadji Jarma Lalli and Ronnie Aringgoy, the first human trafficking conviction in the Philippines with technical assistance from foreign agencies.

Rebellion and Destabilization Cases

In the aftermath of the Oakwood and other destabilization plots against the government, the Program has been requested to extend material and logistical support in the prosecution of these cases against military personnel and private individuals.

At present, the Program provides security, transportation and financial support for prosecutors and government witnesses involved in this national security cases.

Regionalization of Temporary Shelters and Safehouses

Securing the witnesses is important. Since Filipinos are a closely knit family, the Program is oftentimes compelled to grant requests of witnesses to keep their families with them for safety reasons. This accounts for a high number of occupancy in temporary shelters. This is, however, more economical compared to the need of transporting and securing them whenever they would want to visit their families outside the safehouse.

To enhance operational efficiency, cut down transport cost, and reduce stress on witness clients and their families, the Program established regional temporary shelters with full security complement in the areas preferred by witnesses e.g. NCR and Regions 2, 6, 7, 9. The Program intends to duplicate these efforts in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 10 where crime incidence on national interest cases appear to be high to make the Program's operations better felt.

VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Victim's Compensation Program was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 7309. The Board of Claims was created to determine whether to grant or deny the compensation to be awarded to victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of violent crimes. It conducts verification, investigation or submission of applications to the program.

For 2006, the Board received a total of **3,216** applications. During the 1st quarter of 2006, it granted a total of **952** claims. Applications for victims of heinous crimes include that of one Mark Diate, who survived but seriously injured in a massacre in Indang, Cavite where three (3) members of his family died. The Board likewise granted the claims of the victims of bomb explosion in the Port of Lamitan, Basilan Province on 28 August 2005, which killed two (2) persons and seriously injured eleven (11) others. Victims of bomb explosion in Koronadal Public Market on 10 July 2003 were given financial assistance. Three (3) died in the incident and twenty-four (24) innocent civilians were seriously wounded. The Board also approved **10** seriously injured victims of grenade throwing in Pigcawayan, Cotabato during the celebration of the town fiesta. Three (3) persons died in a massacre that happened in Mabuhay, Zamboanga Sibugay and the Board gave their heirs P10,000.00 each. A total of **173** victims of rape were given compensation.

During the 2nd quarter, the Board received and granted **666** applications. It approved the claims of three (3) victims of human trafficking. The victims were recruited for work in Brunei Darussalam as waitresses but instead brought to Malaysia where they were sold to customers of different nationalities who sexually abused them. **129** victims of rape in various places in the country were given financial support. Most of them were minors with ages from 1 to 6 years old. On 27 April 2006, the Board likewise approved the claim of Ramon Dela Cruz who was charged with two(2) counts of murder. The trial court found that the Ramon "Monching" Dela Cruz referred to in the Information is different from the Ramon Dela Cruz who stood trial. It was a case of charging a wrong person of offenses he did not commit. Dela Cruz was detained for more than five (5) years. The Board granted him P60,000.00 (P1,000.00 per month of detention) for being a victim of unjust accusation and detention.

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

A Special Committee for the Protection of Children was created by virtue of E.O. 275 with the Secretary of Justice as chair and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development as co-chair. It is the body charged with monitoring the implementation of R.A. No. 7610 otherwise known as "*The Special Protection For a Child Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act*" and the formulation of policies relative to child protection. It engages in campaign against child trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination. It includes monitoring incidences of child abuse and child exploitation in labor, entertainment and other environments that violate children's rights.

For the period, the SCPC has accomplished the following:

- Continuous advocacy efforts on the rights of the child and the Guidelines for Media Practitioners on the Coverage and Reportage of Children's Cases which the SCPC drafted in 2001 in partnership with the Philippine Press Institute and the Probe Foundation Inc. with support from the UNICEF;
- Continuous monitoring of child abuse, exploitation and child labor cases. To date, the SCPC is continuously monitoring 385 cases which are either being investigated, prosecuted and undergoing trial in courts;
- Conduct of trainings/workshops on investigative techniques and improved coordination among law enforcers assigned in women and children's desks of the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration, and prosecutors assigned in family courts;
- Awareness campaign on children's rights and reporting of child abuse cases for members of the communities;
- Data gathering for Offenders' Database on sexual abuse and commercial exploitation of children which was set up in 2005 resulting to 4,662 as of end of the year;
- Updating of the Comprehensive Program on Child Protection resulting to the production of a program document entitled "Providing a Protective Environment for Filipino Children" the implementation period covering from 2006 – 2010 for member agencies and non-government agencies involved in child protection;
- Conduct of trainings/seminars workshop for the enhancement of capacities of prosecutors assigned in family courts on the effective investigation and prosecution of child-related cases.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE COUNCIL

The latest addition to the Department's organization is the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC). Under R.A. No. 9344 otherwise known as *Juvenile Justice and Welfare (JJW) Act*" which was signed into law by the President on 28 April 2006, the JJWC shall be under the supervision of the Secretary of Justice but chaired by an Undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and a member shall come from the DOJ and other agencies mentioned therein.

The JJWC for the period has come up with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R. A. No. 9344 and has conducted advocacy efforts and information dissemination about the new law to prosecutors, parole and probation officers, local government units and other stakeholders in the juvenile justice system. Consistent with the implementation of the transitory provisions of the law, around 765 minors were released from prisons and detention centers upon the initiative of the JJWC.

DOJ ACTION CENTER (DOJAC)

The DOJAC is the Department's answer to numerous requests for legal assistance from the public but does not duplicate the functions of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO). The program acts on complaints, requests for legal assistance and queries of walk-in clients and telephone callers. A lawyer or paralegal officer renders assistance to the requesting public.

The Center has since assisted **3,721** (data for the period January-June 2006, excluding those from regions) clients who requested for legal help. It is also working with government agencies like the Department of Agrarian Reforms (DAR) to assist tenants who have been displaced by unscrupulous persons and land grabbers, Department of Labor and Employment for labor issues and other agencies that address requests for assistance of DOJAC clients. In 2004, the Secretary has regionalized the services of the DOJAC to all prosecution and PAO regional offices nationwide.

JUSTICE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (JUSIP)

Established through a directive of then President Corazon C. Aquino (Administrative Order No. 99 dated 1 December 1988) and with a directive from then President Fidel V. Ramos (Administrative Order No. 11 dated September 1992) to include the offices of the Register of Deeds in the Program.

The Justice System Infrastructure Program is tasked to construct/rehabilitate decent office buildings for judges, prosecutors, public attorneys, probation officers, and registers of deeds.

Since its inception in 1988, JUSIP completed construction of **250** new buildings and repaired/renovated **27** existing Hall of Justice buildings nationwide and another **39** completed for improvement/development. It has **34** ongoing projects and **10** other projects lined up for implementation.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Office of the Secretary, through the cooperation and coordinated efforts of all its support services and their staff, achieved major accomplishments in terms of internal management improvement efforts. The Information Systems Strategic Plan of the DOJ-OSEC for 2006-2008 was completed and approved by the Commission on Information and Communication Technology. As part of its first year implementation, through the joint efforts of all support services, more than 500 computers were procured and distributed in the Department Proper and to almost all field prosecution offices nationwide. As to financial operations, the e-NGAS, as developed and prescribed by the Commission on Audit, was successfully setup and now operational in the DOJ-OSEC. Major policy directives were made and functional/financial/administrative improvements put into place. Management oversight mechanisms were enhanced and the finance/administrative officials and staff ensured the efficient internal management of resources. An Organizational Development Program for the NPS was also initiated and to be jointly implemented by the NPS and all the support services of the Department Proper, includes the development of a unified reporting and performance monitoring system, organization and staffing restructuring, and resource management improvement.

COMMISSION ON THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND PROBLEMS (COSLAP)

The Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems, created on September 21, 1979 by virtue of E.O. No. 561, is responsible for the settlement of land problems involving small landowners and members of the cultural minorities.

Attuned to the government's 10-Point Agenda of fighting poverty, COSLAP undertakes to provide immediate but effective cross-cutting procedures in adjudicating land problems or disputes within its authority for the benefit of those who have less in life, as well as settle land problems through conciliatory measures as alternative modes of resolving land disputes.

COSLAP is committed to extend assistance to small landowners, tillers, informal settlers and indigenous cultural minorities in settling their land problems or disputes by means of a speedy and inexpensive investigation, conciliation and adjudication.

As of December 31, 2006, COSLAP has appealed nine (9) significant cases to the Higher Courts. Of these nine cases, one (1) was resolved in the Supreme Court and one (1) in the Court of Appeals.

For CY 2006, COSLAP resolved 2,069 cases, exceeding its 1,500 target by 38%. Of the

2,069 cases resolved, 1,425 (1966-1996) are classified as old cases and 644 as new cases. Of the 644 new cases resolved, 24 were amicably settled, a strong indication of COSLAP's adherence to resolving land problems through conciliatory measures as alternative modes of resolving disputes.

As compared to the 550 cases received in 2005, cases received in 2006 increased by 16.54% or a total of 641 cases. As of December 2006, there are 3,340 ongoing cases. Twenty three (23) are classified as significant cases affecting around 17 to 1,386 families and covers a land area of 300 square meters to 238 hectares.

In the year 2006, COSLAP strengthened its information campaign to make justice more accessible to the general public. COSLAP coordinated and consulted other government agencies involved in the settlement of land problems and disputes to shed light on technical matters on cases handled by the Commission.

The COSLAP met its target to establish a data bank of 1,200 case folders. It also managed to resolve cases within 30 days from the time these cases are submitted for resolution.

Budget constraints affected the 2006 budgetary thrust of COSLAP including among others its conduct of comprehensive research and study on the problems of informal settlers in order to recommend doable solutions to those problems and the acquisition of research materials needed for expeditious resolution of cases to achieve its aim of Zero Backlog on handled cases.

Nevertheless, like any other quasi-judicial agencies, COSLAP serves not only the small settlers, landowners, small farmers, tillers, indigents or marginal families but also protects the rights of both complainants and respondents in land disputes in accordance with rules of procedures consonant to the Rule of Law and for the best interest of justice.

COSLAP uses the technique of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to settle disputes/differences among litigants to do away with court litigation expenses.

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (LRA)

The Land Registration Authority is mandated to issue decrees of registration and certificates of title and register documents, patents and other land transactions for the benefit of landowners, agrarian reform beneficiaries and the registering public in general. It is committed to effectively implement the laws and the regulations relative to the registration of land titles and deeds, to maintain and foster greater public trust and confidence in the Torrens Title through honest, prompt, and efficient service.

LRA is the top revenue-earning agency among those attached to the Department of Justice. In CY 2006, it earned a whopping 2.5 B pesos in revenue sourced from registration fees, legal research, verification fees and filing fees collected through the Registries of Deeds and other fees collected by the Central Office.

The Task Force Titulong Malinis (TFTM), a program designed to combat land fraud cases, continued to do LRA proud by accomplishing the following for the year 2006:

Reports approved by the Administrator	43
Referred to other government agencies: NBI	33
OSG	3
Reports pending review	58

To ensure security of land records and to provide better working condition for its personnel, LRA continues to embark on the construction of its own offices. To date, LRA has constructed twenty-seven (27) registry buildings since 1995, has sixteen (16) building constructions underway and has eight (8) buildings in various stages of completion.

The Land Titling Computerization Project was suspended due to cost cutting, however, a

petition for the resumption of the project was set for arbitration.

Also for the year 2006, the LRA, in continued observance with its mandate of public service for the benefit of the landowner and corollary to the needs of the national economy, has disseminated and registered a total of 32,517 Emancipation Patents (EPs)/ Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) covering some 81,570 hectares of land.

LRA continues to institutionalize the Integrity Development Plan (IDAP) to address its fight against graft and corruption.

LRA has put up a One-Stop-Shop (OSS) office within its premises to provide convenience to the transacting public of its various services.

Actual physical outputs for CY 2006 are as follows:

Original registration:	
Subdivision plans approved	5,441
Decrees issued	892
Consultas resolved	202
Subsequent registration:	
Deeds/instruments registered	2,437,464
Land titles issued	580,471
Land titles reconstituted	2,636

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL (OGCC)

The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, receiving its mandate from R.A. 2327, R.A. 3838, P.D. 1415, E.O. 878 and other legislations and executive orders, is statutorily the legal counsel of government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and its subsidiaries.

At present, OGCC services one hundred two (102) GOCCs and four hundred sixty-four (464) water districts, their subsidiaries and acquired assets. For CY 2006, OGCC has rendered a total of twenty-six thousand forty-five (26,045) units of legal services to its client GOCCs, vis-a-vis the projected target of 15,000 units of legal services, thus, attaining an efficiency rate of 174%.

OGCC's case dockets, to date, totals eight thousand four hundred twenty-four (8,424), which entails attendance to hearings and submission of pleadings before courts and other quasi-judicial bodies for and in behalf of client government-owned and/or controlled corporations.

The year 2006 ended by attaining fundamental improvements for stronger legal services and standing by its Zero Backlog Policy for pending requests for contract review and legal opinion covering the year 2005.

For CY 2006, OGCC has reviewed four hundred ninety-four (494) contracts of the different GOCCs, involving an estimated amount of six trillion, eight hundred eighteen million, seven hundred seventy thousand, seven hundred fifteen pesos and 70/100 (P6,818,770,715.70), and three hundred thirty-three million, four hundred seventy-nine thousand, three hundred thirty-six U.S. dollars and 80/100 (\$333,479,336.80).

Other accomplishments of OGCC are as follows:

For client GOCCs	
Legal opinion rendered	347
On GSIS Foreclosure cases*	
Filed accounts	1,517
Auctioned accounts	878

*with an estimated court expenses of twenty-nine million, eight hundred thirty-four thousand, nine hundred sixteen pesos and 94/100 (P29,834,916.94).

The Zero Backlog Policy is on-going for pending requests for opinion and contract review for the year 2006 which OGCC shall accomplish on the first quarter of 2007.

Among the fundamental improvements of OGCC for a stronger legal service in 2006 are:

- OGCC led the way for its client corporations (GOCCs) to operate with more efficiency, attain a balanced budget, and contribute to the over-all improvement in the rendition of public service by increasing the standards of legal service with an advocacy for good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility;
- OGCC, through its able leader GCC Agnes VST Devanadera, brought in the dimension of a responsive legal service in light of the dynamism of the corporate world thereby strengthening the institution as well as the people in it. This was carried out by starting capability-building programs and activities and at the same time improving its administrative support system by giving the staff adequate training on information technology in preparation for the opening of OGCC's website at www.ogcc.gov.ph;
- OGCC issued its Implementing Rules and Regulations which shall serve as the guiding principle in resolving legal conflicts and in responding to the problems, issues and needs of the client GOCCs;
- OGCC embarked on a campaign for the protection of children – OGCC's OPLAN: KKK (Kalinga at Katarungan para sa mga Kabataan) – as part of leading the advocacy for corporate social responsibility.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (OSG)

The Office of the Solicitor General, an independent and autonomous office attached to the Department of Justice for budgetary purposes, is the legal representative of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, its agencies and instrumentalities and its officials and agents in any litigation, proceeding, investigation or matter requiring the services of a lawyer before the local court system or in international fora.

OSG has one hundred sixty-six (166) legal staff including the Solicitor General. With a total office caseload of over a quarter of a million (250,000 +) cases, each Solicitor handles an average of more than one thousand seven hundred (1,700) cases. Comparing this to their counterparts in private law firms who handle an average of fifty (50) to a hundred (100) cases each and considering that the OSG's jurisdiction covers nationwide with occasional calls for duty abroad, still, the OSG was able to accomplish the following in 2006:

23,002 Judicial Legal Services rendered:

Criminal Cases	1,740
Civil Cases	2,905
Special Proceedings Cases	14,127
Land Registration & Cadastral Cases	3,764
Court of Tax Appeals	144
Public Utility Cases	285
Naturalization Cases	37

43,974 other legal services rendered:

Briefs, comments, petitions, complaints, reports & other pleadings	14,518
Instructions to Provincial/City Prosecutors sent	21,663
Official communication sent	7,793

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PAO)

The Public Attorney's Office provides free legal assistance to indigent persons or to the immediate members of their families in civil, administrative, labor and criminal cases which services include judicial and quasi-judicial representation, mediation and counseling, jail visitation, inquest assistance, miscellaneous legal advice and documentation.

With PAO's 1,037 lawyers handling criminal and civil cases before 2,255 courts nationwide and about 25 lawyers devoting themselves on appealed cases before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, it was able to render service to 4,609,627 indigents broken down as follows:

Regular Services	656,342
Limited Services	746,204
Non-Judicial Services	2,592,082
Appealed Cases	6,729
Women Clients	63,832
Children in Conflict with the law	16,436
Outreach Activities	528,002

Of PAO's plan to strengthen its manpower capability and welfare, a "Grand Workshop for the Lawyers and Staff of the Public Attorney's Office" was held on November 6-10, 2006. The workshop constituted compliance of PAO lawyers with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and updated the non-lawyer/staff with the latest Civil Service issuances, rules and policies. Aside from the workshop, a total of two thousand five hundred sixty-nine (2,569) lawyers and non-lawyers attended a total of one hundred seven (107) seminars, conventions and conferences which greatly enhanced the capability, knowledge and professional skills of the participants, thus rendering a more efficient, friendly and effective legal services to the indigent sector.

Although PAO does not report any opening of its district office in any municipality nationwide, it was able to purchase a total of seven hundred ninety-eight (798) volumes of legal books and reference materials with a total cost of eight hundred forty five thousand three hundred fifty eight pesos (P845,358.00) which were distributed in all PAO Regional Offices nationwide. In addition to this, *Lex Libris* CDs were also given amounting to a subscription cost of three hundred twenty thousand five hundred forty-four pesos (P320,544.00).

PAO coordinated with the tri-media to disseminate the existence of the office and enhance its positive public perception.

BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR)

The Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR), as part of the fourth pillar of the criminal justice system, is tasked with the effective safekeeping and rehabilitation of national prisoners.

By the end of 2006, the Bureau maintained 30,798 inmates, an increase by 3.27% from the 2005 level of 29,818, in its 7 operating institutions nationwide, detailed as follows:

Prison Facility	Capacity	Population	% Share	Congestion Rate
New Bilibid Prison	8,700	18,670	61%	115%
Correctional Institution For Women	1,000	1,401	5	40%
Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm	3,500	2,968	10	-
Davao Prison and Penal Farm	3,100	4,091	13	32%
San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm	1,300	1,071	3	-
Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm	1,500	1,563	5	4%
Leyte Regional Prison	1,000	1,034	3	3%
TOTAL	20,100	30,798	100%	53%

The Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC) in all prisons and penal farms admitted and classified 5,024 inmates during the period. Recidivism for 2006 was at 4%, lower than the recorded rate of 7% in 2005, the lowest recorded so far in Asia.

For this year, BUCOR purchased one (1) unit 25-seater coaster and seven (7) units passenger vans to facilitate the transport of prisoners attending court hearings and BUCOR officials and employees on official business and repaired existing office and road infrastructures.

Search operations and confiscations were conducted on prohibited items e.g. cellular phones, ammunitions/deadly weapons, drugs and intoxicating beverages.

For the year in review, a total of 59 escape incidents occurred, 6% lower compared to last year's count of 63. Escapees were mostly minimum security inmates. A total of 55 escapees from the previous and current years were recovered.

The regular upgrading of the computer system at the Bureau's Documents Section sped up the processing of inmates' records. Inmates' papers were submitted to the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) upon compliance with requirements. For 2006, a total of 4,575 inmate carpentas and requests were forwarded to the BPP showing an increase by 21% from the 3,613 count in 2005. Total releases by parole, pardon, expiration of sentence and other reasons were at 3,683 inmates, comprising 12% of the entire inmate population.

To address the congestion problem at New Bilibid Prison (NBP), and to complement the inadequate manpower needed to attain the target of self-sufficiency especially in Iwahig and Sablayan where large tracts of land are arable, more inmates were transferred from NBP to the different prison facilities with the total count at 1,430, higher than 2005 figure of 992 inmates.

Rehabilitation Efforts

Formal, non-formal and vocational courses are offered in all the prison facilities. The 2006 enrollees numbering 6,525 was higher than the 2005 level of 4,862 and represented 21% of the inmate population under the guidance of 43 teaching personnel and 115 teaching aides. 626 or 11% successfully graduated. However, some inmates were not able to continue their program due to their subsequent release, drop/out, and/or transfer to other prison facilities.

In addition, sports and religious activities were part of the day-to-day rehabilitation efforts for inmates, with the assistance of various NGOs.

The Muntinlupa Juvenile Training Center (MJTC), a joint project of the JICA and DOJ which provides a separate facility for the juvenile and youth offenders, offers training to children who ran in conflict with the law to help them acquire vocational skills. It has 24 juvenile clients for the period. Programs therein complement that of the Therapeutic Community Center at the Reception and Diagnostic Center.

Inmates found positive with usage of illegal drugs are being subjected to detoxification and rehabilitation. In CY 2006, 29 inmates were subjected to drug testing, of which only 6 were confirmed drug positive and subjected to the detoxification program.

Welfare of inmates was improved in 2006 with the additional P5 per day food ration for each inmate. The total provision for inmates' basic needs for 2006 hiked from P482,951,285.51 as compared to the 2005 provision of P402,306,158.93.

Medical and dental care services are provided to inmates. For CY 2006, BUCOR was able to purchase medical equipment such as Hematology Analyzer, Siemens Sonoline Adara Digital Ultrasound System, Blood Chemistry Analyzer, Bio-Hazard Cabinet for Sputum examinations, Analog Dry Block Heaters, Radiographic and Fluoroscopic X-ray TB system, Dental Ray Machine with complete accessories, Ultrasonic Scaler, Dental Chairs and Dental autoclave.

However, due to lack of more sophisticated medical equipment, inmates needing special medical attention were referred to outside hospitals. Usually, inmates needing expensive services have to pay for their own treatment.

Agro-industrial Operations

The institution encouraged prison-based factories for more employment opportunities for the inmates to utilize their talents and skills as part of the livelihood programs of the institution. For 2006, about 7,518 inmates were deployed in various areas of work, or an employment rate of 24%. More inmates were also utilized for maintenance, cleanliness and beautification within the prison reservation and deployed to different agro projects.

The bureau was able to raise P57,027,413.81 production income or a 9% increase from the previous year income of P52,291,856.88. This income augmented the Bureau's budget in terms of provision of inmate's subsistence improving prison facilities. The income derived from a joint venture with TADECO amounted to P38,045,847.90 which accounted for the largest portion of revenue. Income derived from agro-industries (excluding TADECO income) amounted to P18,981,565.91, about 11% higher from the previous year.

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI)

The Bureau of Immigration is primarily mandated to control and regulate the immigration of aliens in the country pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 613. Its mandate was further defined by Executive Order No. 292, Book IV, Title III, Chapter X, Section 31 specifically delineates the mandate of the Bureau as "the administration and enforcement of immigration, citizenship, and alien admission and registration laws in accordance with the provisions of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (as amended), the Alien Registration Act of 1950, including other pertinent laws related thereto."

Immigration Regulation

Controlling and Regulating Entry of Aliens

Through the country's international airports and 37 sub-ports, the BI processed and admitted 5,252,531 alien and Filipino arrivals to the country, which was 7.31 % more than the 4,894,522 admissions made in the previous year.

The BI cleared 5,750,442 Filipinos and foreign nationals for departure, while it intercepted and denied boarding to 3,140 others due to defects in their travel documentation or existence of hold departure orders against them. Reported figures for the year showed an increase from the 2005 reported counts of 5,250,939 and 2,194, respectively.

BI personnel boarded 10,519 maritime vessel arrivals and cleared 10,504 vessel departures. These activities related to world trade.

The Bureau granted visa extensions of stay to 347,718 aliens higher than the 276,642 in 2005 by 25 %.

The Bureau facilitated the implementation of 98.77% or 10,198 visa application for the following purposes: Commercial Working Visa (9g) 3,800; Treaty Traders Visa (9d) 110; Missionary 2,414; Foreigners married to Filipinos staying in the Philippines (13a) 1,772; and Student Visa (9f) 2,102. However, some 127 applications were disapproved in view of the non-authentication of required documents from embassies concerned or the National Statistics Office.

With the simplification of requirements and massive information drive initiated by the bureau, an increase in the number of dual citizenship applicants were noted in 2006. Of the 11,451 applicants, the bureau approved 10,852 applications and implemented 25,351 dual citizenship approved applications, 14,499 of which consists of consulate applications.

Alien Registration / Documentation

Documenting Alien Residents

In 2006, the bureau received 56,402 applications, three times more than the 2005 figure of 15,951 ACR I-Card applications, and issued 66,884 or 92% from the received applications.

Intelligence

Enforcing Immigration Laws

The Law and Investigation Division disposed 85.68% or 6,528 of the 7,619 different cases routed to their office. Of the 82 deportation cases handled by the Special Task Force – OCOM, 88% or 72 individuals were issued summary deportation orders while the remaining 12% or 10 cases were issued voluntary deportation orders. Moreover, three (3) illegal/undesirable aliens were arrested by SOT-OCOM by virtue of a memorandum order. Subject aliens are currently under BI proceedings courtesy of the Special Task Force on Deportation.

The Bureau of Immigration arrested or received the turnover by the police or NBI of a total of 145 aliens suspected of violating the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (CA 613, as amended). At yearend, 76 of them were deported to their respective countries of origin. Among those deported were 23 fugitives wanted by their respective states for various high crimes.

Financial Management

Generating Revenue for the Government

Primarily, the Bureau acts as a regulatory agency. However, with its intensified effort in the enforcement of immigration laws, it collected a total of P1,461,087,370.90 for the year 2006, which was P186,975,280 higher than the collections reported in 2005 at P1,274,112,090.03.

Interpol Connectivity

The Bureau of Immigration – Interpol Sub-Bureau is now connected on real time with the PCTC-INTERPOL National Central Bureau and Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France effective 15 November 2006 under the Bureau of Immigration – Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (BI-DIMA) Project.

Institutional Strengthening Projects

BI-DIMA Projects

The Bureau is establishing the Wide Area Network (WAN) project in coordination with the DIMA of the Government of Australia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by installing twenty four (24) Wide Area Network (WAN) sites in all the strategic immigration stations in the country especially in the border crossing station in the southern Philippines. This will provide real time communication and access to the database within the Bureau and will be operational by February 2007.

The Bureau is likewise establishing additional eleven (11) Wide Area Network (WAN) sites to be funded by the Bureau completing the thirty five (35) WAN sites nationwide.

Immigration Service Enhancement Project, Philippines (ISEPP)

- a. Upgrading of Philippine Immigration Academy Structures
- b. Preparation of Immigration Manual of Operation for Immigration Officers and other frontline officers
- c. Preparation of Training modules for the Bureau of Immigration

- d. Continuing Capacity Building Program for Document Examination of the Bureau of Immigration, Anti-Fraud Division
- e. Acquisition of Forensic Document Examination Equipment for Cebu, Davao, Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, Zamboanga Immigration District and other active Immigration Stations with international flight operations
- f. Acquisitions of machine readers for all international airports and seaport.

Manpower Capability Build-Up
Customer Service Excellence Training Program

This year, the BI intensified its bureau-wide campaign to provide quality reception services at the airport, seaports, and at the central office thereby promoting a sustained client-friendly work environment.

The launching of “Service with a Smile Project” at the BI-IRD NAIA has so far yielded a total of ten (10) customer relations seminar cum workshops, and one (1) each at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DIMA) in Clarkfield, Pampanga and at the Davao sub-port. Some two hundred forty (240) front line BI employees composed of immigration officers and sub-port personnel were able to improve their social skills in dealing with foreign clients and balikbayans alike.

Public Information Assistance Group (PIAG)

A special project (OCO) composed of twenty (20) members from different BI offices underwent extensive Team Building Seminars that redound to the threshing out of basic constraints encountered daily at the public information desks. The highly successful customer relation seminar-workshops were held in Morong, Bataan and Baguio City on separate occasions. The management endeavor also involved the participation of some members of the Civil Security Unit (CSU).

Accreditation Seminars on Philippine Immigration Laws, Policies, and Procedures

Seminars were conducted at the Philippine Immigration Academy in Clarkfield, Pampanga. Said seminars were intended to orient newly accredited law firms, travel agencies, and other representatives or liaison personnel of private companies. These seminars are essential for their acquisition of basic knowledge (familiarization) on immigration laws, policies, rules and regulations being implemented by the Bureau of Immigration. The seminars also aimed to enhance harmonious working relationship among BI employees and duly accredited personnel from the private sector.

I-Card seminars were conducted at the NAIA (2) and in Davao City sub-port aimed at upgrading the technical knowledge and skills of BI front line personnel particularly those who are assigned at the ACR I-Card Section. Participants were trained not to adopt the outdated and winding paper-based processing methods.

Training the Trainers

Training officers, supervisors and their staff underwent a three-day seminar-workshop conducted by DIMA and Guthrie-Jensen. The seminar held at Renaissance Hotel in Makati City was designed to upgrade the skills of BI trainers in line with the Bureau’s skills and capability building programs for frontline personnel.

Other Technical Trainings

Technical trainings such as detection of fraudulent passports, document examinations, profiling, Philippine Border Management trainings and biometrics conferences were also given priority importance by the Bureau as regards to the enhancement of skills and capabilities for its personnel to familiarize them in the proper handling of modern equipment.

Organization Enhancement

The creation of ad hoc committees i.e., IDAP committee, OPIF committee enabled the Bureau to comply with the various reportorial requirements of PAGC, DBM and DOJ. These committees shall continue to perform their designated tasks and special functions until necessary amendments to the Philippine Immigration Act of 1990 are instituted and in accordance with a plantilla that is responsive to international standard and to the demands of modern immigration law enforcement.

Immigration Manual

The provision of draft guidelines on procedures for Immigration Officers and other Bureau officials courtesy of International Organization for Migration (IOM) intends to consolidate relevant laws, policies and procedures for the guidance of immigration officials especially those who are designated at the border posts. Hence, the manual promotes sense of responsiveness in the facilitation, control and effective handling of irregular migration situations such as smuggling and trafficking of human beings, international terrorism and other forms of transnational crimes. Target date of approval is February, 2007.

The ongoing management activities consequential to the BI strategic planning would integrate various programs and projects for the attainment of the Bureau's set goals and objectives.

The newly approved BI Communication Advocacy Plan aims to promote the Bureau's programs, projects and accomplishments to win the respect and support of the transacting public. The ComPlan would raise the level of the Bureau's socioeconomic relevance in the society at large and enlist the support of other government agencies and legislators in enacting related programs and services to include the approval of budgetary requirement.

The BI Manual of Operations is the end product of the BI Strategic Planning Activities. The manual will be ratified by bureau officials and serves as the basis for the establishment of an efficient management information system (MIS) that would enable BI officials to submit timely and accurate reports (the 2nd phase of the ongoing BI Strategic Plan is set for implementation).

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI)

The NBI is primarily mandated to investigate and detect crimes and other offenses against Philippine laws upon its own initiative or as properly requested, act as national clearing house of criminal and other information for use of all prosecuting and law – enforcement agencies, provide technical aid to such agencies as well as the courts, and establish / maintain an up-to-date scientific crime laboratory and conduct researches in furtherance of scientific knowledge in criminal investigation.

For 2006, the agency pursued its campaign against criminality which posted positive results, particularly on crimes such as kidnap-for-ransom, illegal drug trafficking, violation of intellectual property rights, trafficking of persons, graft and corruption, estafa, and counterfeiting of local currency coins.

NBI agents seized pirated computer gadgets and software, discs and tapes, signature clothes, gadgets, novelty items, and jewelry valued at more than P302 million and more than a ton of shabu and other illegal drugs worth P333 million.

On the overall, the Bureau's Manila investigation services as well as the regional and district offices nationwide, received some 12,064 criminal cases. Including service and miscellaneous concerns, the over-all cases received for the year was at 52,724.

For the year in review, some 6,312 crime cases were recommended for prosecution.

Additional child friendly rooms were constructed in 2006. In addition to thirteen existing simple Woman and Child-Friendly Investigation rooms, two (2) more such facilities were inaugurated in NBI offices in Tarlac and Olongapo cities.

The Technical Services continued to render specialized services such as medico-legal, forensic chemistry, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) questioned documents, ballistics, polygraphy, dactyloscopy, and investigative photography. Terminated were 18,574 cases.

Laboratory examinations were conducted on 32,336 specimens.

An increase in the number of clearance applications were received in 2006 at 4,407,427 at an average of 17,844 a day nationwide, respectively. This figure was 6% more than the 4,128,485 applicants who trooped to the NBI clearance center, renewal kiosks, and in the regional, district, and satellite offices nationwide in 2005. In this regard, automated teller machine-type equipment were set-up for the speedy processing of clearance applications.

On the 3rd quarter of 2006, the NBI installed the unmanned clearance payment kiosks at the NBI Clearance Center in Carriedo St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, with the Bureau's purpose to bring its frontline services closer to the people.

Among the most significant cases handled are the following:

Illegal Drugs

- Arrested Harris Abichandani, an Indian national involved in the large scale importation and distribution of 53,504 vials of Ketamine Hydrochloride injection worth P53 million in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)
- Arrested Gregorio Tayag Santiago and 7 others including a ranking police officer (Roberto Mendoza Gabor) and retired Air Force pilot (Josefino Mendoza Gabor) and seized assorted drug paraphernalia during a drug operation by joint elements of the NBI – Anti Illegal Drug Task Force and the PDEA
- Nabbed 75 drug pushers and users and undetermined quantity of shabu and assorted drug paraphernalia confiscated in a joint operation by the PDEA, NBI Anti Illegal Drug Task Force and Bulacan PNP
- Arrested Samsodin Pamantar and confiscated two sacks of ephedrine used in shabu-making worth P160 Million
- Arrested four Chinese nationals namely Zi Qu, Ong Tua Ti, Zhin Na and Xian Tian and confiscated P120 Million worth of shabu during a raid of a laboratory in Aurora province
- Arrested Amin Imam Boratong and his wife Sheryl Molera, ranked as among the most wanted criminals in the country and converted a 2,000 sqm lot in Mapayapa Compound, Brgy. Sto. Tomas, Pasig City into a shabu market.

Trafficking of Persons

Filed charges for violations of RA 9208 (Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003) against Nicole Tan Cabillan (Harem Bar and Restaurant, Mandaue City); Joel Capote and Efren Edison (prostitution dens, Makati City); Nakamori Kakuto and Katsumi Yamamoto (Cainta, Rizal); Nenita Mallari and Allen Mendoza (Manila and Makati) and rescued 136 women including 12 minors during a series of operations in different night clubs in Lapu-lapu, Mandaue and Cebu City

Seizure of Expired Medicines and Counterfeit Products

- Seized more than a truckload of expired medicines worth P20 Million and arrested Beicia P. Manansala in Sta. Maria, Bulacan
- Seized hundreds of thousands of counterfeit products such as computer softwares, CDs and DVDs, signature clothes, gadgets, novelty items worth P78.71 million during a series of raids in Metro Manila and provinces
- Seized some P8 Million of counterfeit Lacoste footwear during a simultaneous raid of Bigger and Brighter Boutique Hauz and its two branches in Pasay City

- Seized 24 units of computers and pirated CD ROM installer worth P2 Million at Fast Win Trading Inc, Maxsaver Trading and Byte Circuits Computer Services, all located in Mandaue and Cebu cities
- Seized 126 desktop computers, 40 compact disks and laptop containing unlicensed reproductions of Autodesk, Microsoft, Symantec and Adobe softwares with a combined worth of P18,473,500 at Toenec Phils., Prime Pacific Grill, CME Technology, Krebs Engineers Pacific and Decision Support, all located in Metro Manila
- Seized thousands of counterfeit Louis Vuitton and Tag Huer watches worth P3.5 Million during raids of ten stores in Plaza Miranda Shopping Mall in Quiapo, Manila.

Counterfeiting Local Currency

- Arrested Yung Sung Liu and seized sackfuls of P5million worthless local currency coins and machines used in the manufacture of counterfeit local currency at Valenzuela City
- Arrested Lin Ming Chin aka Kevin Lin engaged in the buying of flattened Philippine one (1) peso coins in large quantities and the confiscation of over six tons flattened “piso” coins

Kidnapping

- Arrested Ariel Ano y Rodriguez , a notorious leader of a kidnap-for-ransom and armed robbery / hold-up group during an operation in Tagkawayan, Quezon.
- Arrested Andres C. Lucero, Fromencio T. Enacmal, and Gualberto Castellaja, suspected members of Waray-waray kidnap for ransom group in a series of operations in Pasig City and Dasmariñas, Cavite.
- Arrested Eduardo and Elenita Garcia for kidnapping 6 year old April Rose Juanes who was recovered during a rescue operation in a remote area in Guagua, Pampanga on May 29, 2006.
- Rescued Ricky Bola, a businessman who was kidnapped by Pasay City police officers (P/ Insp. Abel Ocampo and several others) and detained in a drug rehabilitation center in Tagaytay City without his consent

Murder

- Arrested Rodel de Guzman y Galvan, a notorious man in Pangasinan wanted for Murder and a member of a gun-for-hire syndicate operating in Pangasinan, was arrested in Brgy. Tamayo, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
- Arrested PO1 Aaron Golifardo, suspect in the killing of Dong Batul, radio commentator and former vice-mayor Puerto Princesa City
- Arrested two suspected abortionists Josie Jordan and Herminia Sales were arrested in two separate but related entrapment operations in Malabon City
- Prosecution of Mike Arena, and other members of the Marquez – Arena Robbery hold-up gang in connection with the robbery/slaying Juan Edgardo Bongalon
- Filed criminal charges against Benjamin Garcia, alleged gunman in the brutal slaying of Atty. Nestor Ballacillo, former Assistant Solicitor General, and his son Benedict, a supervising Probation and Parole Officer of the DOJ following his arrest earlier by PNP and NBI operatives

Illegal Gambling, Estafa, and Swindling

- Seized P30 Million worth of cyber equipment used in illegal gambling from British Grand Vision International / Transglobal Pacific Airways in Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City.
- Busted a syndicate who prey on beneficiaries of veterans pension and arrested Lourdes DLC. Elpedes, mastermind (Quezon City), PVAO employees Nancy Quitlag and Emma de Guzman and fixer cohort Pacita Navia
- Arrested Prince Olarewaju Olajide alias Dr. John, a Nigerian national, who swindled several persons including a naturalized American,
- Busted a syndicate following the arrest of Myla Ortiz and four others who defrauded a rent-a-car operator of P35 M and responsible for dozens of missing cars

- Arrested Azineth DC Buisan, an illegal recruiter, who defrauded Esther Marie Sampiano and several prospective OFWs of hundreds of thousands of pesos during an entrapment in Quezon City
- Arrested Gabriel Bagtang and two others who sold fake gold bar weighing 32.3 kilos for P16 million to Ferdinand Laranag during an entrapment in Baguio City
- Arrested Jimmy Salgado, alleged bagman of Erwin and Ramon Tulfo, renowned media men, who were allegedly involved in extortion activities in Manila

Graft and Corruption

- Apprehended P/Insp Celestino Roldan, SPO4 Arteso Tacata, SPO1 Tiburcio Grave, Joey Aloag, and Fidelino Loreto, all of the Traffic Management Group, South Motor Vehicle Clearance Office for alleged graft and corruption practices
- Arrested Marcelino Castro and Victor Castro, and Antonio Lucion, all officials of the Presidential Regional Assistant Monitoring Service (PRAMS) which conducted illegal raids of business establishments
- Arrested two Bureau of Jail Management and Penology jail guards, Eiveht Sy and Menchu Landera, during an entrapment operation in Cebu City
- Apprehended SPO2 Jerry Villarín, PO3 Estanislao Avenido and PO2 Godofredo Amancio during an entrapment operation in Cebu City
- Recommended the prosecution of Crisrose Doydoy, acting cashier of the LTO – Tagbilaran for Malversation of Public Funds

PAROLE AND PROBATION ADMINISTRATION (PPA)

The Probation Administration was created by virtue of Presidential Decree 968, The Probation Law of 1976, to administer the probation system. Under Executive Order 292, The Administrative Code of 1987, it was renamed “Parole and Probation Administration” (PPA) and given the added function of supervising prisoners who, after serving part of their sentence in jails are released on parole or are granted pardon with parole conditions.

As part of the corrections pillar of the criminal justice system, the PPA is mandated to conserve and/or redeem convicted offenders and prisoners who are under the probation or parole system. The goals are to promote the reformation of criminal offenders and reduce the incidence of recidivism, and provide a cheaper alternative to the institutional confinement of first time offenders who are likely to respond to individualized, community – based treatment programs.

In 2006, a total of 10,690 petitions higher than the 2005 count of 9,331 petitions for probation investigation, pre-parole/ executive clemency investigation, suspended sentence investigation and community service were handled. Of the investigation cases submitted to the courts, 9,383 were disposed. Meanwhile 1,307 pre parole cases were completed and submitted to the Board of Pardons and Parole. Noteworthy are the cases upheld by the courts, Board of Pardons and Parole, Dangerous Drugs Board of the field officers in terms of sustained recommendation of 98.46% for investigation and 99.95% for supervision.-----

A total of 37,022 probation supervision cases and 16,760 parole/conditional donees were handled in 2006. Out of the probation and parole/pardon supervision cases handled, 8,280 and 2,180 were successfully terminated and released and 26,987 and 13,577, respectively, remained under active supervision by year end. The revocation/ re-arrest rate for 2006 stands at 3.70% and is among the lowest in Asia.

The 53,782 probationers, parolees and donees saved for the government, an estimated P405 million in 2006, and an estimated total of P4.67 billion since 1978 in terms of prisoner sustenance alone.

Rehabilitation Programs and Other Services

Therapeutic Community Program

The program is a self-help social learning treatment model used in the rehabilitation of drug offenders and other clients with behavioral problems. It operates in a functional family with a hierarchical structure and sets of rules and community norms that members commit to live by and uphold. In 2006, a total 10,795 clients participated, nearly twice the number of 5,357 client attendees in 2005. It had been noted that the program proved effective in rehabilitation of drug related clients with their active responsiveness to the treatment process.

Restorative Justice

It is a victim-centered response to crime that provides opportunity for those directly affected by the crime – the victim, the offender, their families and the community. The ultimate objective is to restore the broken relationships among stakeholders caused by crime. The outcome of restorative process includes payment of civil liability (1,660 clients paid a total amount of P11.74 million to victims, community service (38,990 participated), and tree planting (13,531 participated).

Volunteer Probation Aide (VPA)

Utilization of VPA is a strategy by which the Agency promotes maximum citizen participation or community involvement. Citizens of good standing in the community may volunteer to assist the field officers in the supervision of probationers, parolees, pardonees in their respective communities. During the year, 3,683 VPAs were appointed in the monitoring and supervision of 2,709 clients and organized into 49 associations nationwide.

Integrated Allied Social Services (IASS)

IASS is a special project that is ancillary to the above discussed programs as harmonized. The client's family is considered a major support and object in the rehabilitation process. Children and other minor dependents of clients were the main targets. Effective interventions in relation to their growth and development were done to help them become productive, law abiding and effective individuals. 431 children and other minor dependents were involved in the various rehabilitation activities.

Jail Decongestion

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the PPA, Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Public Attorney's Office (PAO) and National Prosecution Service (NPS), PPA conducted 4,737 jail visits with the end in view of assisting detention prisoners to avail of benefits of probation, parole and any form of executive clemency. The services include intake interviews, referrals to PAO for assistance in the preparation of filing of petitions for probation and for release on recognizance. A total of 18,787 detention prisoners were served for this purpose.

2007 MAJOR PLANS AND PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

- Conduct of a comprehensive organizational development study, planning and policy formulation/implementation for the National Prosecution Service
- Intensified recruitment and continued training/legal education of prosecutors
- Continued protection and security of witnesses and active participation in case buildup/identification of potential witnesses by the Witness Protection Program
- Enhance technical/legal skill of State Counsels in handling international/foreign requests for extradition/legal assistance and negotiation
- Continued launching and operation of DOJ Action Centers Nationwide
- Institute improvements in internal management systems and procedures
- Implementation of the 2006-2008 Information Systems Strategic Plan
- Enhance support services including improvement of administrative/financial processes and facilities, and construction of new building

BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS

- Education program focusing on vocational and skills training
- Encourage more correction-based factories for livelihood of inmates
- Promote productivity in agricultural projects for self-sufficiency in all penal farms
- Expand operation of Juvenile Training Center to segregate young offenders
- Therapeutic Community Program to inmates with cases not related to illegal drugs
- Sports activities sponsored by NGOs and continuous spiritual programs
- Intensive campaign against contrabands
- Improvement of lighting facilities and installation of security gadgets
- recruitment of more correctional guards
- Construct industrial shops inside prison compounds
- Construct new NBP hospital
- Repair/renovation of prison facilities/offices and expansion of inmate dormitories
- Promote personnel welfare and efficiency

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

- Campaign against terrorism
- Continued nationwide campaign against illegal and undesirable aliens, particularly drug and human traffickers, economic saboteurs, and criminals
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art surveillance equipment for intelligence operatives
- Construction of new building
- efforts for the passage of a new immigration act

COMMISSION ON THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND PROBLEMS

- Shifts in policy directions, functions, programs and activities
- Zero backlog of all pending cases
- Comprehensive and analytical research and study on problems of informal settlers
- Charge minimal fees from litigants
- Conduct study on the proliferation of fraudulent and fake titles
- Coordinate with other government agencies on socialized housing sites as required by the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 (R.A. 7279) and with the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) on its Community Mortgage Program (CMP)

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

- Implement the Land Titling Computerization Project (LTCP)
- Intensify vigorously a nationwide campaign against fake and fraudulent land titles through its inter-agency Task Force Titulong Malinis (TFTM) in coordination and cooperation of the Office of the Solicitor General
- Improve the Registers of Deeds offices and the Central Office
- Continue Operation Handog Titulo

- Undertake measures to fight corruption
- Expedite issuance of decrees/land titles
- Create a Management Planning and Organizational Assessment Unit
- Total Quality Management
- Propose passage of various measures to safeguard land titles

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- Continuing education/training of NBI operatives in cyber crime investigation and computer forensics
- Online filing and receipt of complaints/requests for investigation
- Shift in policy direction towards strengthening intelligence capability through establishment of large scale local and international intelligence network
- Setting up of woman and child friendly investigation rooms in regional and district offices
- Establishment of computerized clearance processing within metro manila and suburbs
- “NBI Clearance on Wheels” in various provinces in Luzon

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL

- Enhanced client satisfaction
- Streamlining and rationalization of policy issuances
- Greater accessibility to information
- Capability-building of OGCC personnel
- Improvement of office-legal systems

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

- Implementation of RA No. 9417, the OSG Strengthening Act of 2007
- Continued computerization and development of information technology systems
- Intensified hiring of lawyers and support staff upon approval of expanded staffing structure
- Acquisition of new building and improvement of existing facilities

PAROLE AND PROBATION ADMINISTRATION

- Build the image of the PPA
- Harmonize rehabilitation programs, namely, the Therapeutic Community Modality, Volunteer Probation Aide Program and Restorative Justice
- Benchmark best practice in rehabilitation and training technologies across regions
- Strengthen funding support
- Develop information technology capability
- Rationalize agency structure/systems
- Enhance personnel capability

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Improve facilities and modes of communication
- Promote good governance, professionalism and anti-corruption measures
- Strengthen autonomy of PAO
- Enhance skills and competence of PAO employees
- Strengthen manpower
- Enhance outreach activities and information dissemination
- Vigorous rendition of prompt, effective and adequate legal services to the indigents
- Active participation in on-going pro-poor