

Department of Justice ANNUAL REPORT

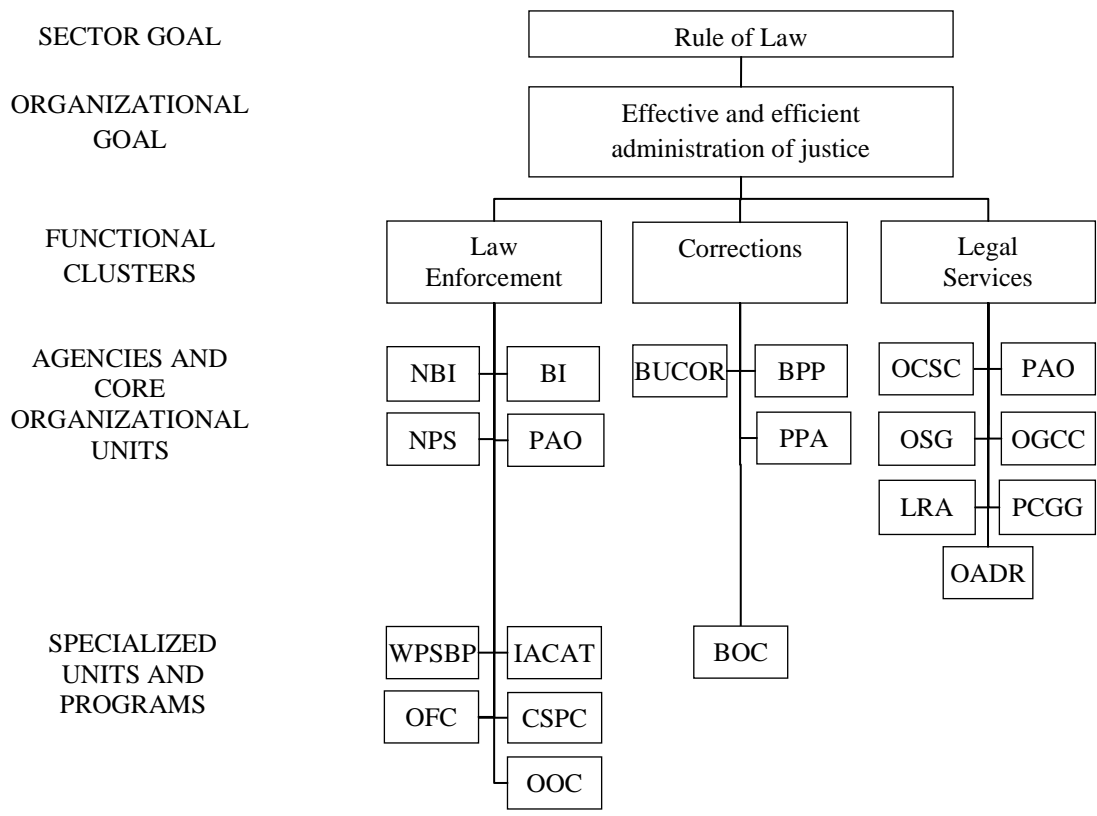
CY 2015

DOJ Cluster Framework

The DOJ works on a functional cluster framework that has clearly defined roles and functions and the lines of coordination and collaboration among the cluster members.

DOJ agencies have been organized into three (3) functional clusters to facilitate a well-coordinated planning, budgeting and the implementation and monitoring of regular and special operations, programs and projects for efficiency and effectiveness. These clusters consist of the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Legal Services.

The DOJ's cluster framework is illustrated in the following functional chart:



LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Cluster are agencies involved in implementing the law including interdiction, detection and investigation of crimes/offenses, prosecution of offenders, as well as protection and assistance for victims and offenders.

- a. Detection and investigation – This is a primary function of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).
- b. Immigration enforcement – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) enforces the Philippine Immigration Law and certain provisions of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.
- c. Criminal prosecution – The National Prosecution Service (NPS) investigates criminal complaints and prosecutes accused person/s before the courts. The Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program (WPSBP) supports this by providing protection and incentives to vital witnesses.
- d. Public defense and assistance – The Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) provides legal assistance for victims of crimes and persons investigated or accused who do not have access to the services of a lawyer.
- e. Special protection – The Department takes the lead in the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, through the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), and Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC). Specialized offices are also established by law and Executive directives in the DOJ Proper, particularly the Office for Competition (OFC) and Office of Cybercrime (OOC) to strengthen the government’s capability to enforce laws against monopolistic/unfair business practices and cybercrime, respectively.

National Bureau of Investigation

The NBI is the government’s premier investigation agency and acts as the national clearinghouse of criminal cases. Its vision is to be a world-class investigative institution – dynamic, respected and committed to the high ideals of law and order. This will be achieved by providing quality investigative and forensic services to the people through advanced methods and equipment in the pursuit of truth and justice.

In 2015, the NBI Investigative and Intelligence Services, as well as the Regional Services received a total of 58,640 cases. As of end of the year, terminated cases totaled 57,058, of which 10,143 were crime cases, 3,649 were service cases and 43,266 were miscellaneous cases. Out of the total crime cases terminated, 2,658 were recommended for prosecution.

On the other hand, forensic investigation services rendered by experts in the field of forensic medicine and chemistry, questioned documents, ballistics, polygraphy, dactyloscopy and investigative photography accounted for 29,700 cases terminated with 1,464 court appearances nationwide.

With regard to clearance processing/issuance, 6,396,724 clearance applications or an average of 26,877 per day were received by the NBI nationwide for various purposes. Clearance processed increased by 11.8% compared to the 5,724,045 certificates issued in 2014.

Significant Accomplishments

- Criminal charges were filed against officials of Bureau of Plants Industry (BPI) and more than 100 officers of farmers cooperatives for alleged involvement in a conspiracy in a cartel that cause garlic prices to surge.
- In the Mamapasano shootout, the NBI conducted trajectory examination of 44 bullet holes found on trees and the wooden bridge on the site of the incident. Ballistics examination determined the 45 pieces of evidence caliber 5.56 mm fired cartridge cases marked "M-1" to "M-45" revealed that they were fired from 10 different caliber 5.56 mm firearms.
- Arrested in an entrapment operation on November 10, JORGE OBENITA PONCE III, the leader of Juan Pinoy Marketing Ventures Incorporated, an alleged investment scam.
- Conducting continuing investigation against DELFIN S. LEE of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Inc. for Syndicated Estafa filed by PAG-IBIG Fund.
- For its campaign against violation of intellectual property rights, the NBI seized various fake branded products amounting to more than P750 million:
 - Fake Nike and Converse shoed worth P27 million;
 - Fake Bulgari, Chanel, Burberry and Chloe products worth P606 million;
 - Confiscated fake LS and BL cream products worth P10 million;
 - Counterfeited RADO, Omega and Longines items worth P102 million; and
 - Other various counterfeited products amounting to more than P7.5 million.

Challenges and Constraints

- Enactment of the NBI Modernization Bill – the need to lobby for its passage in joint Congress and eventual enactment into law.
- Lack of integrated manual of operations – development of the integrated manual is still ongoing.
- Inadequate preparedness against natural disaster response
- Maintenance of crime laboratories established nationwide

Plans and Targets for 2016

- Maintain existing regional crime laboratories
- Intensify operations against Trafficking in Persons, Dangerous Drugs and other high-profile cases
- Develop an integrated NBI manual of operations
- Implement the Case Monitoring System (CMS) of the Automated Case Information Office (ACMO)
- Pursue/support the enactment of the NBI Modernization Act into law.
- Continuously implement good governance reforms and resource management improvements
- Ensure sensitivity and responsiveness of policies, systems, processes and services for the poor and vulnerable groups
- Enhance the capability of employees and officials through trainings and seminars and institutionalize the training programs of the NBI Academy
- Pursue the ISO Certification of the Bureau's frontline services through the Quality Management System (QMS)

National Prosecution Service (NPS)

The NPS is mandated to assist the Secretary of Justice in the performance of powers and functions of the Department relative to its role as the prosecution arm of the government, particularly the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. The said mandate and present NPS organization is contained under RA No. 10071, the Prosecution Service Act of 2010.

As of the end of CY 2015, besides the NPS Prosecution Staff in the DOJ main office, the NPS has 14 regional offices with 223 functional constituent offices and 87 sub-offices for the 80 provinces and 143 cities nationwide. In the same year, the NPS was manned by 2,018 prosecution officers (prosecutors and prosecution attorneys) and 1,814 administrative support staff.

As shown in Table 1, authorized prosecution officer positions increased from 2,416 in 2013 to 3,675 by end of 2015 (in line with implementation of RA 10071), hence raising the overall vacancy rate from 23% to 45%. For the support staff, vacancy rate decreased from 20% in 2011 to 13% in 2015. Despite this, support staff remained severely deficient in most prosecution offices especially with the creation of new cities, which require the establishment of prosecution offices.

Table 1. NPS Staffing Statistics, 2010-2015

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prosecution Officers*						
Authorized Positions	2,410	2,411	2,412	2,416	3,484	3,675
Filled Positions	1,863	1,836	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018
Vacant Positions	547	575	562	558	1,627	1,657
Vacancy Rate	23%	24%	23%	23%	47%	45%
Support Staff*						
Authorized Positions	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,946	2,075
Filled Positions	1,602	1,558	1,629	1,688	1,719	1,814
Vacant Positions	343	387	316	257	227	261
Vacancy Rate	18%	20%	16%	13%	12%	13%
Other Support Staff**						
LGU-provided	882	1,027	1,009	1,018	912	942
Other agencies	23	39	27	29	29	21
Other sources	6	3	3	3	9	2
Total	911	1,069	1,039	1,050	950	965

Investigation and Prosecution Services

Based on available statistics in 2015 as of report preparation, the NPS handled 399,096 complaints for preliminary investigation (PI) and resolved 322,588 cases, which constitute the bulk of the workload of prosecution officers. Annual disposition rate progressively increased from 74.6% in 2010 to 80.6% by end of 2015.

On the average, one prosecutor handled 196 and resolved 158 PI cases for the entire year. This prosecutor caseload does not include special pleadings and reopened/reinvestigated/reviewed cases through motions, petitions and court orders, among others. Table 2 shows that average case load per prosecutor

continuously grew from 179 in 2010 to 218 per prosecutor in 2014. In 2015, the average caseload per prosecutor decreased to 196 with the increased number of prosecutors.

Table 2. NPS Preliminary Investigation Case Load and Disposition, 2010-2015

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<u>Case Load</u>						
Cases Handled	334,398	342,537	353,647	389,565	404,613	394,527
Filled Positions	1,863	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018
Average per Prosecutor	179	187	191	210	218	196
<u>Disposition</u>						
Resolved Cases	249,550	262,977	271,292	305,016	325,868	318,028
Disposition Rate	74.6%	76.8%	76.7%	78.3%	80.5%	80.6%
<u>Pending Cases</u>						
	84,848	79,560	82,355	84,549	78,745	76,499

With regard to investigation aging, available data in Table 3 shows that there is a 3% increase in nationwide backlog (complaints pending beyond 120 days—maximum reglementary period prescribed in the 2008 Revised Prosecutor’s Manual) from 55.2% in 2014 to 58.5% in 2015.

Table 3. Aging of Complaints Pending Resolution in the NPS, 2010-2015

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<u>Within the reglementary period</u>						
60 days and below	39.9%	46.4%	48.6%	42.5%	44.8%	41.5%
More than 60 days up to 120 days	24.1%	27.9%	26.6%	26.8%	27.8%	26.3%
<u>Beyond the reglementary period</u>						
More than 120 days up to 1 year	15.9%	18.5%	21.9%	15.8%	17.0%	15.2%
More than 1 year	60.1%	53.6%	51.4%	57.5%	55.2%	58.5%
More than 120 days up to 1 year	23.3%	20.3%	23.6%	24.2%	23.6%	21.2%
More than 1 year	36.8%	33.3%	27.8%	33.3%	31.6%	37.3%

Besides the above investigation workload, there were 813,596 criminal cases in the first and second level trial courts attended to by prosecutors nationwide for 2015 based on the Criminal Case Inflow and Outflow Report from the Supreme Court. On the average, a prosecutor handled around 403 court cases in that year. This figure does not include civil and family court cases that have been handled by prosecutors. Table 4 shows the total number of criminal cases in the lower courts and average case load per prosecutor from 2010 to 2015.

Table 4. Criminal Cases in Lower Courts, 2010-2015

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal Cases in Lower Courts*	705,569	732,870	741,748	751,904	780,019	813,596
Filled Positions	1,863	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018
Average per Prosecutor	379	400	401	405	420	403
Prosecution Success Rate	68.2%	65.3%	71.2%	68.3%	72.9%	71.9%

*Source: Supreme Court – Court Management Office (2011-2015 updated data as of May 11, 2016)

Based on available reported statistics from the NPS, prosecution success rate in 2015 was at 71.9%, which is higher than the 68.2% in 2010 but about 1% lower than the 72.9% in 2014. Prosecution success rate is calculated as convictions as a percent of total convictions and acquittals. Dismissals and archivals are not considered since the causes thereof are beyond the control of prosecutors (e.g. non-appearance of complainants/witnesses/accused, successful court mediation, desistance of complainants).

There are various organizational challenges and constraints that hamper the performance of the NPS particularly on investigation and prosecution. These include severely inadequate support staff in many prosecution offices nationwide and lack of capital funding for infrastructure and office equipment/amenities, resulting to continued dependence on local government provision. There are also internal management constraints/weaknesses including systems and procedures, information dissemination, case management, reporting and performance monitoring, resource management, personnel development.

Other Functions, Programs, Projects and Activities

Besides their regular investigative and prosecutorial functions, provincial and city prosecutors are deputized by the Offices of the Solicitor General and Ombudsman, act as ex-officio legal counsel of LGUs, serve as the vice chair of the election board of canvassers, and sometimes act as local Register of Deeds.

The DOJ Prosecution Staff and Regional Prosecution Offices administer the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program and Victims Compensation Program. They also have lead role in regional anti-trafficking in persons task forces and implementation of Administrative Order No. 35 (Creating the Inter-Agency Committee on Extralegal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Other Grave Violations on the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons).

The NPS 2016-2022 Strategic Roadmap

The NPS has formulated a 6-year strategic plan with two (2) main goals:

- Build an independent NPS for greater operational effectiveness; and
- Elevate prosecutorial performance to global standards.

Core Strategies

- Push for new legislation making NPS an autonomous constituent agency of the Department;
- Pursue policy and procedural reforms to eliminate backlog and increase prosecution success rate.

Support Strategies

- Realize the ideal court-prosecutor ratio of two (2) prosecutors per court for efficient caseload management;
- Institutionalize a continuous learning program for the prosecution service by setting-up an DOJ Academy fully functional by 2022;
- Embed critical support functions at the regional operations level by having an approved and filled regional staffing structure; and
- Develop technology solutions that form part of a knowledge management (KM) system and the National Justice Information System (NJIS).

Financial Strategies

- Regionalize budget allocation for and monitoring of MOOE, targeting full budget utilization among all regional offices for programmed activities yearly; and
- Secure additional funding under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to eliminate LGU support.

Success Indicators/Measures

- Increased successful prosecution rate; and
- Higher public trust and confidence based on:
- Reduced filing of administrative or criminal cases related to the performance of function filed against prosecutors;
- Increased filing of criminal complaints/cases before NPS;
- Reduction in the number of petitions for review; and
- High net trust rating of NPS (i.e. through third party survey).

Expected results of successful implementation

- From prosecutors that are adequately performing, to highly competent and professional advocates of justice;
- From prosecution offices that are not conducive for work, to modern and presentable spaces with healthy working relationships among employees and between offices;
- From inadequately motivated and trained administrative staff, to highly skilled/motivated partners of prosecutors as advocates of justice;
- From a semi-LGU-dependent in terms of logistical capacity, to an NPS that is insulated from LGU influence; and
- From financially slow and centralized, to regionalized, responsive and efficient NPS.

Bureau of Immigration

As mandated by Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of immigration, citizenship laws and alien admission and registration laws. It also recognizes its role in the enforcement of other pertinent laws such as RA 9208, also known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, as expanded by RA 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012.

For the year 2015, BI processed 26,957,603 passenger entries and exits in all ports of the country, of which 92% have been processed from queue to immigration counter within 25 minutes. This is 33.5% higher than the 20,188,571 processed last year. BI has also processed 754,093 immigration registration and transactions/documents, which is 3% higher than the 729,870 in 2014.

In 2015, the BI collected P3.4 billion, which proves that BI continuously contributes substantial revenue to the national treasury from immigration fees, taxes, fines, penalties and ACR I Card collection. This collection has surpassed the target which was projected to reach P3.26 billion.

Major Accomplishments

- The new paperless annual report process, allowed foreign nationals to fill-out the application forms online, thus, reducing time spent in the BI office. This resulted to the compliance of 111,923 foreign nationals – an increase of 40.4% from the previous year.

- Electronic counters or e-counters with passport readers similar to other countries were installed in NAIA terminals to ease up the primary inspection of passengers to enhance the level of public service.
- In time for the APEC summit, the Mobile Interpol Network Database (MIND), state-of-the art scanning and database equipment was provided to enhance border security and efficiency at major international ports.
- BI entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with various schools granting college scholarships to the children of BI employees to commemorate the Diamond Anniversary of the Bureau.

Challenges and Constraints

- Constraints in the procurement of equipment and tedious procedure of selection, bidding/awarding of project
- Internet connectivity issue that hampers viewing, monitoring and surveillance
- Congested BI-Bicutan Holding Facility calls for a need to construct a bigger holding facility for safer and convenient facility for the increasing number of detained aliens
- The increasing clientele and employees of the Bureau need a new and bigger office which should be near NAIA Terminals.
- BI needs swift cross border management to cope up with the fast paced movements of passengers and increase in number of flights demands strict border control management and security.

Major Plans and Targets for CY 2016

- Prioritize hiring and promotion where selection process will be based on merit and fitness and provide seminars and trainings for personnel to imbibe professionalism and curb graft and corruption;
- Review transaction procedures and come up with a policy identifying the concerned division for each transaction, streamline the process, provide timelines and prescribe penalties for non-compliance;
- Revitalize the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Compliance and Certification;
- Lobby for the approval of the BI building;
- Facilitate the on-going procurement process for improvement and upgrade of ICT facilities;
- Pursue acquisition of biometric capturing equipment in order to improve visa issuance, alien certificate registration and alien immigration documents focusing on validation and fraudulent detection; and
- Enactment of a new Philippine Immigration Law.

Public Attorney's Office – Public Defense

Public defense is a function of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) that relates to providing legal defense for the accused, especially those who do not have access to the services of a lawyer, to ensure that their rights are protected.

RA 9406, entitled "An Act Reorganizing and Strengthening the Public Attorney's Office" established the PAO as an independent and autonomous Office attached to the DOJ for the purpose of policy and program coordination. Currently, it has 17 regional offices, 296 district and 5 sub-district offices, two Regional Special and

Appealed Cases Units, one satellite office, and one annex. As of December 2015, PAO has 1,523 public attorneys handling criminal and civil cases before the courts nationwide. About 45 of them devote themselves to appealed cases before the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court, and the Office of the President. Handling these cases, however, is but one of the Public Attorneys' functions. PAO lawyers also render non-judicial services and handle such other limited and special services.

In spite of the overwhelming case loads, the public attorneys ably represented indigents accused in court and managed to obtain 158,348 acquittals, dismissals and other favorable dispositions for the accused in criminal cases.

Specifically mandated by RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children) to extend legal assistance to women and their children who are victims of violence, and RA 9344 (Juvenile Justice Welfare System Act) to facilitate the release of minor offenders from jail, PAO handled a total of 75,684 cases involving women and 35,927 cases involving children in conflict with the law (CICL). Out of this number of cases 45,887 and 19,359 cases were terminated involving women and CICL, respectively.

Other accomplishments as well as plans and programs of the PAO are in the legal services cluster report.

Witness Protection Security and Benefits Program

The WPSBP started the year 2015 with 570 covered witnesses. Within the year, 160 witnesses were admitted to the program, the coverage of 160 *witnesses* was terminated based on completion of witness duties, absence of or manageable threats, violation of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or personal request of the witness himself. By the end of 2015, the total number of witnesses covered by the WPSBP was 570. In the same year, a conviction rate of 83% was obtained wherein out of 23 cases decided, 19 cases won.

Among the major accomplishments of WPSBP is its vital role in securing more than 10 witnesses/whistleblowers in corruption cases which have assumed national importance and have invited keen public interest, including the controversial Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and the overpricing of Makati City Hall Building and Parking. It also takes part in the government's active campaign against human trafficking by covering 81 witnesses.

WPP also covers witnesses in high profile cases such as the Mamasapano case, Iglesia Ni Cristo case, Atimonan multiple murder case and the ambush of Guingog City Mayor Ruth Guingona.

A continuing review of the financial assistance being extended to the witnesses is being made in view of the current economic situation. The Program constantly strives to provide additional financial/economic assistance to its witnesses and their dependents.

There are continuing efforts to professionalize the Internal Security Operation Group of the Program. In October 2015, WPP conducted a 9-week Witness Protection Program Training Course at the PNP Training School.

Medical assistance and recreational activities to address the medical, psychological and social needs of the witnesses, as well as livelihood training programs to make them productive and prepared for life after the Program were likewise made available.

For 2016, WPSBP intends to pursue or undertake the following:

- Active implementation of the Program by increasing the people's awareness and proactive stance in seeking out witnesses.
- Enhancement of witness benefits such as increasing economic benefits, continue of livelihood activities for witnesses and provision of psycho social counseling.
- Professionalization of personnel complement thru representations with Congress for conversion of Program into Bureau with regular security/administrative personnel.

Acquisition of firearms/ammunitions, transportation and office equipments to improve the capability in securing witnesses under the program

Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)

The enactment of Republic Act (RA) No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003", as amended by RA No. 10364 also known as the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (TIP) of 2012" provide policies and procedures for a comprehensive approach in combating TIP.

The IACAT has, on record, a total of 54 convictions which resulted to the conviction of 52 traffickers from January to December 2015. Since the effectivity of RA 9208 in 2003, the Philippines has reported a total of 224 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) convictions involving 248 trafficking offenders.

Other Major Accomplishments

- In 2015, IACAT with DSWD assisted a total of 1,465 individuals through the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP).
- The IACAT Operation Center (OPCEN) handled a total of 81 walk-in complaints and 19 referral cases from IACAT Secretariat, member agencies and NGOs. OPCEN operatives conducted 13 surveillance operations and 18 rescue and entrapment operations in various clubs and other establishments that resulted to the apprehension of 49 suspected human traffickers and illegal recruiters and rescued a total of 127 victims, including 44 minors
- The IACAT OPCEN operatives located and persuaded a total of 75 victims/witnesses in different areas in the country and escorted them to attend their respective court hearings, and rendered security services to a total of 247 witnesses/victims to ensure attendance to cases conferences and court trials.
- Pending completion of the Victim Processing Center in Mandaluyong City, IACAT entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit to provide alternative safe space and serve as a temporary shelter for potential victims of human trafficking.

- Social media was utilized to increase the reach of IACAT to the public. IACAT Public Assistance Corner was also maintained as a tool for the public to report or share information about violations of the Expanded Act.
- Received 364 deferred departure incidents involving 3,587 passengers through the established anti-trafficking port-based task forces in major airport and seaports, trafficking recruitment areas and other terminals.
- The IACAT Secretariat and the Task Forces conducted a total of 330 trainings involving 8,957 participants from the government and 12,410 participants from the private sector.

Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC)

CSPC was created in 1995 through Executive Order No. 275 as a follow through mechanism of Republic Act No. 7610 otherwise known as the Anti-Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act. In 2011, Executive order 53 was issued to strengthen the Committee, expanding its membership and involving more agencies and stakeholders. Its main function is to report to the President actions taken to address specific issues on child abuse and exploitation brought to its attention.

Major Accomplishments

CSPC consistently enforces the law through the DOJ and other member-agencies/NGO's. The following are the major accomplishments/activities of CSPC together with or through its member agencies for the year 2015:

- Workshop on the Development of Localization Guidelines of the National Framework on Child Protection on the Comprehensive Program for Child Protection.
- Conducted Multi-Disciplinary Team training for Region VIII and Judges Prosecutors, Social Workers and PNP-WCPD in Quezon City and enhancement writeshop of the module on the Protocol for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.
- Seminar workshop for selected prosecutors assigned in family courts from NCR and Region III on Child-Sensitive Investigation and Prosecution of Cases.
- On Anti-Online Child Abuse, with the convergence of councils and committees re: Global Alliance: Online Child Abuse, the CSPC spearheaded the conduct of various meetings/workshops/discussions/consultations on anti-online child abuse.

Plans and Programs for 2016

- Validation and pilot testing of the draft Multi-disciplinary Training Module for Service Providers on Online Child Abuse
- Conduct Multi-Disciplinary Team Training on the Protocols for Case Management of children victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation in Palawan, Northern Samar and Zamboanga City.
- Undertake activities with the Condition of Councils and Committees against Online Child Abuse
- Planning and assessment workshop

Office for Competition

The DOJ - Office for Competition (OFC) was established in 2011 by virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 45, designating the Department of Justice as the country's first Competition Authority. The DOJ-OFC had stepped up its efforts and made significant accomplishments in the pursuit for a national competition policy and law (CPL) that promotes a culture of competition to level the playing field for inclusive growth.

The enactment of Republic Act No. 10667 on 21 July 2015, otherwise known as the Philippine Competition Act (PCA), mandated the OFC to conduct preliminary investigation and prosecute criminal offenses arising from the law and other competition-related laws. The PCA became effective on 17 September 2015.

The OFC docketed 58 cases in 2015, from which, 48 cases were assessed. For merger review, 21 of the 26 applications were cleared/approved.

It also actively participated in international conferences and forum and established strong partnerships with foreign cooperation agencies and financial institutions that provide assistance to our country to enhance its capability for a comprehensive competition policy and law and to improve the business environment, towards a strengthened economic development. The OFC serves as the APEC Competition Policy and Law Group Convenor (AEGC). In October 2015, the OFC in partnership with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) organized three (3) batches of Business Compliance Seminars in Cebu City, Davao City and Manila. These were attended by around 90 representatives from the business community.

In relation to regional cooperation within ASEAN community, the OFC hosted the conduct of the "Workshop on Regional Cooperation Framework" on 3-5 November 2015 in Makati City.

The OFC's capacity building projects for sector regulators, judiciary, business groups, consumer associations, media and academia are implemented with support from various development partners:

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Capability Building Project for National Competition Policy and Law Phase 2
- European Union (EU) – Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Project 3
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)- Project on Consumer Protection
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)- APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform Projects (Competition Policy Assessment and Advocacy; and Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) – Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Benefits in Developing Countries Project
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) – Workshop on Regional Cooperation Framework and Business Compliance Seminars

For 2016, the office needs to reorganize and align its structure, and duties and responsibilities with the provisions of the PCA.

Office of Cybercrime

The DOJ - Office of Cybercrime (OOC) was created with the passage of Republic Act No. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (signed into law on 12 September 2012). On 12 August 2015, its implementing rules and regulation (IRR) was issued by the Department of Justice, the Interior and Local Government, and Science and Technology. The OOC performs a key role in the enforcement and operation of international treaty relative to computer and network crimes and act as a focal agency in formulating and implementing law enforcement investigation and prosecution strategies in curbing cyber-related crimes nationwide.

In 2015, OOC received 33 cybercrime cases, which were either directly referred by complainants or requests for assistance from local and foreign counterparts. Twenty three (23) of these cases are still under investigation while two (2) cases were already filed before the Prosecutor's Office, which were results of the enforcement operations conducted in coordination with NBI and PNP.

Major Accomplishments

- DOJ Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) was constituted in order to minimize the risk against the ICT of the Department and to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of critical systems
- Trained more than 500 individuals, comprised of investigators, prosecutors, state counsels, and public attorneys on basic cybercrime investigation trainings
- In April 2015, the OOC, in partnership with the United Kingdom National Crime Agency, Netherlands Police, Child Rescue Coalition, and PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG), conducted a two-day training course on International Child Protection System (CPS) for investigators from the PNP and NBI at Camp Crame
- Held the Ako Para sa Bata 2015 Conference entitled "Cyber safety and Children: Internet and Mobile Protection for Children" in Cebu City on 1-2 December 2015, in partnership with Philippine General Hospital (PGH) – Child Protection Network (CPN)

Major Plans and Targets for CY 2016

- Ratification of Budapest Convention on Cybercrime
- Access to International Child Sex Exploitation Database
- Strengthen Data Privacy and Protection
- Draft Guidelines on Cybercrime Investigation for Investigators and Prosecutors
- Centralized victim identification program
- Capacity building (National Computer Forensics Training Program, First cyber-responders training, and cybercrime investigations)
- Continue training for law enforcement, prosecutors, public attorneys, and judges in investigating and understanding cybercrimes and computer forensics, related laws, and rules on electronic evidence

Special Task Force to Address Extralegal Killings and Enforced Disappearances

On 22 November 2012, Administrative Order No. 35 was issued by the Office of the President "Creating the Inter-Agency Committee on Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Other Grave Violations on the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons".

The Inter-Agency Committee is chaired by Secretary of Justice with members composed of the heads of the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of National Defense (DND), Presidential Advisers on the Peace Process (PAPP), and for Political Affairs, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Among other functions, the Committee undertakes the inventory of all cases of extra-legal killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and other grave violations of the right to life, liberty, and security of persons, perpetrated by state and non-state forces, as well as the investigation and prosecution of new cases.

As of 2015, thirteen (13) accused were convicted under media killing, six (6) of the eleven judgements of conviction were promulgated. Under the EJK, fourteen (14) accused were convicted, six (6) of eight (8) judgement of conviction were promulgated. AO 35 TWG and Secretariat members also processed 169 cases/incidents using standard AO 35 case templates.

AO 35 Orientation Seminars were conducted which were participated by 66 prosecutors and law enforcers from NBI and PNP

2016-2017 Major Plans and Targets

- To establish better coordination and cooperation among prosecutors and law enforcers in the investigation and prosecution of AO 35 case/incidents by conducting workshop-seminars
- Installation of AO 35 website and distributing of posters to all Prosecution Offices, Police Precincts, NBI Offices for information dissemination in extended legal services to people

CORRECTIONS

The Corrections Cluster includes agencies involved in the deterrence, restraint and rehabilitation of criminal offenders and their eventual restoration, as well as compensation for victims of violent crimes and unjust imprisonment.

- a. Safekeeping and rehabilitation of offenders – The Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR) ensures that national prisoners serve their sentence and are rehabilitated while in custody to prepare them for reintegration into the mainstream society.
- b. Pardon, parole and probation – The Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) grants parole to qualified offenders and recommends pardon/Executive Clemency. The Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) conducts pre-parole/probation investigation and supervises offenders granted parole, pardon and probation as well as first-time minor drug offenders for rehabilitation and reintegration.
- c. Victims compensation – The government provides monetary compensation for victims of violent crimes and unjust imprisonment through the Victims Compensation Program implemented by the Board of Claims (BOC).

Bureau of Corrections

The Bureau of Prisons was established on November 01, 1905 under the Department of Public Instruction through Reorganization Act 1407 of the Philippine Commission. The Bureau was renamed from Prisons to Corrections on November 23, 1989 under section 26 of the Administrative Code of 1987, to emphasize rehabilitation as the primary goal of the Bureau.

Administration and Operation

The Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10575, otherwise known as Corrections Act of 2013 was signed in 2014 towards modernization, professionalization and restructuring of the Bureau.

BuCor maintained in its custody an average daily inmate population of 41,144 prisoners, distributed in its seven (7) operating prisons and penal farms (OPPFs) throughout the country. Out of this number, a total of 5,096 were admitted at the Assessment, Rehabilitation, Program Development and Monitoring Division of NBP, of which 5% were re-offenders and the rest were first-time inmates in the BuCor.

The over-all congestion rate in BuCor prison facilities increased from 153% in 2014 to 158% based on international parameters. The increase in congestion was brought about by the fire incident in Leyte Regional Prison on October 8, 2015, which burned down its Maximum Dormitory building housing 64% of LRP inmate population confined thereat. As part of alleviating congestion, a total of 541 inmates from NBP were transferred to the other OPPFs.

From January to December 2015, a total of 4,012 inmate carpentas were forwarded to the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) for evaluation. There were 4,100 released inmates, a 72.3% increase from previous year.

The continuous reforms in handling the national offenders initiated by this administration and the strict implementation of prison rules made it possible for BuCor to limit its escapees to eighteen (18) for 2015, or 0.04 escape rate against inmate population, the lowest since 1989.

The Oplan Galugad, a search and seizure operations at the prison camps to cleanse the prison from all forms of contrabands yielded 16,887 assorted contrabands at NBP alone. For the year 2015, a total of 38,832 contrabands were confiscated.

Rehabilitating the Offenders

For the year, officers and personnel of BuCor's Reformation Group spearheaded various projects to enhance the education and training, as well as wellness programs for inmates. Active inmate participation in rehabilitation programs continued in 2015 with daily average inmate participation of at least 41, 144 (96%). The enrollees in formal and non-formal BuCor Education Program are at 7,560 or 18.3% of the inmate population. Religious services, counseling sessions and other moral/spiritual formation activities also benefited at least 31,705 inmates.

For its medical, dental and other health care services, a total of 189,660 inmates were able to be provided various types of examinations to determine the presence of gross physical defects and various types of ailments. In the same period, the top three (3) most prevalent diseases were Upper Respiratory Tract Infection, Myositis and Skin Allergy. Five hundred eighty seven (587) inmates died while in custody.

In 2015, at least 17,852 inmates or 43% of the total inmate population have active work and livelihood participation and is expected to rise as the Bureau establishes more partnerships with the private sector. Majority of the inmates, about 28,379 or 69% of total inmate population actively participated in sports, recreation and wellness programs.

Other Major Accomplishments

- Revision of BuCor Operating Manual
- Inmates Medical Record Computerization – 68% encoded
- Launching of the Inmate Management Information System (IMIS) on September 10, 2015, a biometric-based system which includes fingerprint collection, images and signature of inmates which seeks to establish fool-proof identities of inmates and establish quick and accurate computation of Good Conduct Time Allowances (GCTA) and other credits for good behavior
- PDEA-BuCor Joint Manual of Operations in the Conduct of Search and Seizure of Dangerous Drugs, Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals and Drugs Paraphernalia in all BuCor Prison and Penal Farms was formally signed on September 8, 2015
- Installation of 20,000 Gallons Water Tank for the improved water system

Challenges and Constraints

- Overcrowding due to lack of additional facilities and lack of funds for the safekeeping and security of inmates
- Lack of rehabilitation officers, officers' training, equipment and facility
- Delays in the implementation of BuCor Law (RA 10575)

Plans and Programs for 2016

- Implementation of the BuCor Modernization Act
- Completion of BuCor's Operations Manual
- Pursue land titling of BuCor lands
- Continuous development of the IMIS and the Single Carpeta System
- Full computerization of Inmates Visitors Records
- Continue search and seizure operations activities in all prison camps
- Strengthen Reformation Programs through capacity development for Reformation Officers focusing on handling and managing offenders
- 100% of Inmates Medical Records encoded and updated
- Construction/repair of prison dormitories
- Construction of Therapeutic Community Building for Drug Dependents inmates at IPPF
- Installation of Container Van as an additional dormitory for the inmates
- Installation of LAN Internet connectivity at Logistics Office and General Services Division (GSD)
- Work on the documentary requirements for ISO Certification
- Implementation of GAD Projects
- Continuous conduct of trainings/seminars for employees

Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP)

The BPP is tasked with the duty of looking into the physical, mental and moral records of the prisoner who shall be eligible to parole and to determine the proper time of their release. It serves as the recommendatory arm of the President in the grant of pardon and other forms of executive clemency.

For the year 2015, BPP posted 82.69% disposition rate for cases involving parole and recommendation for Executive Clemency. Out of 8,305 total carpetas received, 5,175 cases were submitted for Board action.

BPP received and handled a total of 1,749 Summary Reports in 2015. Out of this number, 1,666 were issued certificates of final release and discharge, 16 cases were either denied or deferred. A total of 56 communications were acknowledged, filed or verified, achieving 94.36% disposition rate. In the case of infraction reports and requests for transfer of residence, 363 out of 739 infraction reports and 212 out of 268 requests for transfer of residence were likewise acted upon during the period.

Aside from the major services mentioned above, BPP also acts on other reports submitted by the Parole and Probation Administration such as death reports of parolees/pardonees, requests for the lifting of Order of Arrest and Recommitment, request for authority to travel abroad, cancellation of parole, etc. BPP also processed petitions for parole/executive clemency and attend to personal follow-ups by prisoners' family, relatives and other interested parties on the status of filed petitions. For the year 2015, BPP released 13,806 replies to petitions, filed 1,875 reports and attended to 4,483 walk-in follow-up cases.

Parole and Probation Administration

The Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) is a line-bureau attached to the DOJ created by virtue of PD 968, otherwise known as the Adult Probation Law of 1976. To carry out the objectives of the Law, the Administration is organized into 16 Regional Offices with 227 Provincial and City Probation Offices nationwide. Its field offices directly undertake the selection/screening of applicants/petitioners (investigation), continuous monitoring of compliance to conditions of their probation, parole and pardon (supervision) and obedience to laws and regulations, and reformation and capacity building (rehabilitation) of clients placed on individualized community-based correction.

As of 2015, the PPA handled a total of 25,953 probation and pre-parole/pre executive clemency investigation cases from January to December 2015, of which 99.49% were completed/submitted to courts and/or the Board of Pardons and Parole. Likewise, 99.49% of recommendations were sustained by courts.

PPA also provide supervision services or the monitoring of clients to ensure adherence to the terms and conditions of their probation/parole/conditional pardon. PPA handled 50,798 probationers, parolees and pardonees supervised and/or monitored. Out of these, 98.32% were parole/probation complaint, that is worthy of community-based corrections.

The PPA employs the three-pronged “community-based treatment program”, namely: Restorative Justice (RJ) as the philosophical framework; Therapeutic Community (TC) as the treatment modality; and Volunteer Probation Aides (VPA) as the lead resource. Generally, the PPA adopted three (3) major RJ processes, namely: Mediation, Conferencing and Circle of Support. It also recognized and paid observance to other indigenous practices that promote healing of the stakeholders to crime. To date there are 1,984 clients involved in mediation; 13,943 in conferencing; 1,859 in circle of support and 2,693 other indigenous processes.

Clients are also mobilized to participate in or render community services, such as tree-planting, wherein 23,564 clients were involved. Other activities include clean and green, coastal clean and these activities are in coordination with national government agencies.

The TC is an environment that helps people get help while helping themselves. The participation rate of clients under the program who are regularly attending the mandatory TC sessions, and Reinforcing activities is 94.61%. These sessions are also supported by clients’ spouses and other members of their family.

The VPA Program is a rehabilitation approach to get community involvement in the reformation process of probationers, parolees and pardonees. For the year, 78.78% of VPAs were mobilized in the rehabilitation activities of clients. They acted as technical speakers, resource individuals, facilitators in rehabilitation programs and projects, mediators, etc. The total number of VPAs is 11,644 all over the country. There are also 376,744 rehabilitation and intervention services rendered to clients in 2015.

Challenges/Constraints

- Submission of quality output to all referrals from the courts, Board of Pardons and Parole and other referring offices
- Volatile peace and order situation in some areas
- Heavy uneven distribution of caseload – personnel ratio
- No funds/allocation to conduct research on the impact/effectiveness of probation rehabilitation program
- Sustaining capacity building among Volunteer Probation Aides
- Full implementation of GCTA Law
- Difficulty in initiating National Greening projects considering volatile peace and order situation in planting sites
- Need to intensify information drive on probation to facilitate the inclusion of clients in the LGU programs and services

Plans, and Targets

- Assess the impact and enhance rehabilitation programs for parolees, pardonees, probationers and first-time minor drug offenders
- Strengthen the Volunteer Probation Aide Program
- Prison and jail decongestion including implementation of Recognizance Act
- Implement reintegration programs including establishment of halfway houses for inmates due for release (on parole or conditional pardon)
- Implement good governance reforms and resource management improvements
- Ensure sensitivity and responsiveness of policies, systems, processes and services for the poor and vulnerable group
- Strengthen cooperation with justice sector agencies and stakeholders.

Victims Compensation Program

The Victims Compensation Program (VCP), administered by the Board of Claims (BOC) provides a legislated amount of monetary compensation to victims of unjust imprisonment or detention and victims who suffered injustice from government and lawlessness in society.

From January to December 2015, the Board handled a total of 2,228 applications for disposition, wherein 1,891 were acted upon and 337 pending at the end of the period, having a disposition rate of 85%. A total of 1,515 victims of violent crimes were granted monetary compensation by the VCP.

LEGAL SERVICES

The legal services cluster consists of agencies mandated to provide for the various forms of legal services to government, its corporations and the public.

- a. Legal services for the government
The Office of the Chief State Counsel (OCSC) assists the Secretary of Justice in the discharge of functions as Attorney General. The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) serve as legal counsel of the government and its corporations, respectively.
- b. Free legal assistance for the public
The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) provides free legal services primarily to indigents, other qualified persons and, in the exigency of the service, to other persons when called upon by proper government authorities subject to existing laws, rules and regulations¹.
- c. Land registration
The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through its quasi-judicial and regulatory functions, protects the legal rights of land owners by implementing the Torrens system of land titling and registration.
- d. Asset recovery
The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) recovers and administers ill-gotten wealth of former President Ferdinand Marcos, among other related legal functions.
- e. Alternative dispute resolution
The Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) is mandated to promote, develop and expand the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the private and the public sectors.

Legal Staff or the Office of the Chief State Counsel

For CY 2015, the Office of the Chief State Counsel (OCSC) rendered, upon request of national government functionaries, including the Office of the President, various legislative committees, as well as officials of the DOJ, 357 opinions, memoranda, comments, and legal studies on difficult questions of law attending the performance of their respective functions, which opinions have economic, social and political implications. It also prepared 13,796 decisions, orders or resolutions in the exercise of the Secretary of Justice's adjudicatory power, or appellate and revisory authority concerning controversies between or among government agencies.

The OCSC also prepared for and on behalf of the Secretary of Justice 357 replies or legal advice at the instance of private parties and minor government officials and employees and prepared 631 legal studies and working drafts for *ad hoc* bodies, committees or task forces of which the Legal Staff are members and representatives of the Secretary or of the Department.

¹The mandate of PAO fall under both law enforcement and legal services.

Office of the Solicitor General

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) represents the Government of the Philippines, its agencies and instrumentalities and its officials and agents in any litigation, proceeding, investigation or matter requiring the services of lawyers.

For 2015, OSG received 31,903 new cases. In the same year, 16,230 were acted upon. As to the filing of petitions under Rules 45 & 65 (certiorari cases) within the time allowed by the courts, OSG acquired 100% compliance.

The OSG has a total of 701 personnel as of end of 2015 (254 lawyers and 447 administrative staff). Shown in Table 6 is a comparison of the staffing complement of OSG from 2010 to 2015.

Table 5. Comparative Data on Staffing Complement of OSG, 2010-2015

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<u>Legal Staff</u>						
Plantilla Positions	421	421	421	421	391	391
Filled Positions	251	235	226	241	262	254
Vacant Positions	170	186	194	180	129	137
<u>Support Staff</u>						
Plantilla Positions	564	567	567	567	597	597
Filled Positions	418	413	399	400	432	447
Vacant Positions	146	154	168	167	165	150

Consequently, the case load has increased by around 54 cases per lawyer (Table 6). The remaining 1,317 cases (average) include all the pending cases (awaiting finality from the courts) and the new cases received daily.

Table 6. Comparison of caseload per lawyer and projected caseload after expansion

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<u>Caseload</u>						
Total*	304,381	340,530	349,524	354,223	330,824	333,471
Number of lawyers	251	235	226	241	262	254
Average per lawyer	1,213	1,449	1,546	1,469	1,263	1,317

The Special Committee on Naturalization (SCN) was created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9139 or the Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000. Being one of the OSG's mandated administrative functions, it is noteworthy to include the statistics of the SCN cases for the past ten (10) years as shown in Table 7:

Table 7. Statistics of Special Committee on Naturalization (SCN) Cases

Particulars	2005-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Petitions Received	200	54	45	37	46	56	54
Oath-Taking	192	76	65	49	23	40	50
Denied	26	10	1	-3 (reversed)	3	2	2
Withdrawn	6	0	0	1	0	1	1
Pending	471	67	46	36	41	60	80

The SCN cases are independently resolved by the Office every year and are not reliant on court decisions. As shown above, the number of petitions have decreased from 56 (in 2014) to 54 (in 2015), and consequently, the number of oath-takers also increased. As for the pending petitions, majority are still for deliberation or awaiting petitioner’s compliance to requirements of other government agencies.

Other Significant Accomplishments

Although it is seldom mentioned in newspaper reports, the OSG is actually the agency representing government agencies or personalities before various courts during hearings and/or files the necessary pleadings. These cases that OSG defends for the People and the Republic cut across various fields.

There are cases handled by the agency that make it to news headlines. Some of these cases involve questions on the constitutionality of certain provisions of law, rules or other issuances, or on the legality or constitutionality of actions of the President or other government agencies and are pending in the Supreme Court. The participation of OSG in these cases helps the government remove legal obstacles that may impede the government from pursuing its development agenda for the country and the People.

Office of the Government Corporate Counsel

As the principal and statutory law office of government-owned and controlled corporations, government corporate entities, their subsidiaries, corporate offspring, government instrumentalities with corporate powers and government acquired asset corporations, the OGCC is mandated to render efficient and competent legal service and promptly meet the legal needs of these government entities.

In 2015, OGCC received and acted on a total of 849 requests for legal opinion and contract review, 691 of which were released, 86.25% or a total of 596, were released within the 28-day period from receipt to release.

Table 8. Legal Opinions and Contract Reviews Rendered, 2010-2014

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Opinions						
Total Services	266	250	233	292	267	333
Rendered	106	146	159	172	217	333
Released w/in 28 days	40%	58%	68%	59%	81%	79.54%
Compliance Rate						
Contract Reviews						
Total Services	465	308	394	421	456	516
Rendered	302	250	323	317	376	516
Released w/in 28 days	65%	81%	82%	75%	82%	90.28%
Compliance Rate						

For its litigation function, OGCC handled a total of 4,818 cases for the year 2015, 44 cases were terminated by virtue of Entry of Judgment as issued by the Supreme Court.

The increase in the number of actual cases that OGCC handles can be attributed to the following:

- Strict adoption of a policy to limit the deputation of private lawyers to handle cases for the OGCC sector. Hence, the OGCC now handles more cases for the GOCCs; and
- Continuing healthier relationship with GOCCs, as well as the lawyers in the legal divisions of the GOCCs, this has resulted in closer working relationship and increased trust and confidence with OGCC.

Other Accomplishments

- Majority of OGCC lawyers underwent a Lecture Forum on the New System for Speedy Court Trial last 12 August 2015 at the Lung Center of the Philippines, Quezon City
- OGCC Lawyers attended a Government Corporate Lawyers' Summit, organized by the Philippine Association of Government Corporate Lawyers (PAGCLAW), on October 1-2, 2015 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City.
- Celebrated 80th Anniversary marked by the launching of the OGCC Commemorative Stamps.

Public Attorney's Office - Legal Services

Aside from its public defense function, the public attorneys and staff of the PAO-Central Office, on scheduled duties, have alternately been providing legal counseling and inquest proceedings assistance on a 24/7 basis. From January to December 2015, a total of 33,014 clients benefited from this service consisting of inquest assistance, legal advise/counseling and documentation.

For the period January to December 2015, PAO was able to assist a total of 7,747,735 indigent clients (which is 3% more than 7,514,325 individuals who sought various legal services in 2014) and handled a total of 848,516 cases nationwide. Based on the abovementioned figures, each PAO lawyer was able to assist an average of 5,087 clients and handled an average of 565 cases.

At the prosecutor's level, PAO was able to terminate 34,032 out of 72,217 handled cases. In addition, 29,716 out of the 48,551 civil cases, 7,147 out of the 17,874 administrative cases, and 50,457 out of 83,205 labor cases were disposed/terminated in 2015.

PAO renders mediation and conciliation services as part of its quasi-judicial function. In 2015, it handled a total of 457,138 disputes and resolved a total of 445,758 thereof. Likewise, a total of 153,177 clients were assisted by PAO in its barangay outreach activities conducted.

The Legal and Medical Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program of PAO-Central Office provided various assistance to a total of 10,272 beneficiaries. These consists

1,080 legal, 2,222 medical, 1,791 optical, and 388 dental assistance. PAO has also facilitated the release of 4,791 inmates, through the Program.

Continuing Plans and Programs

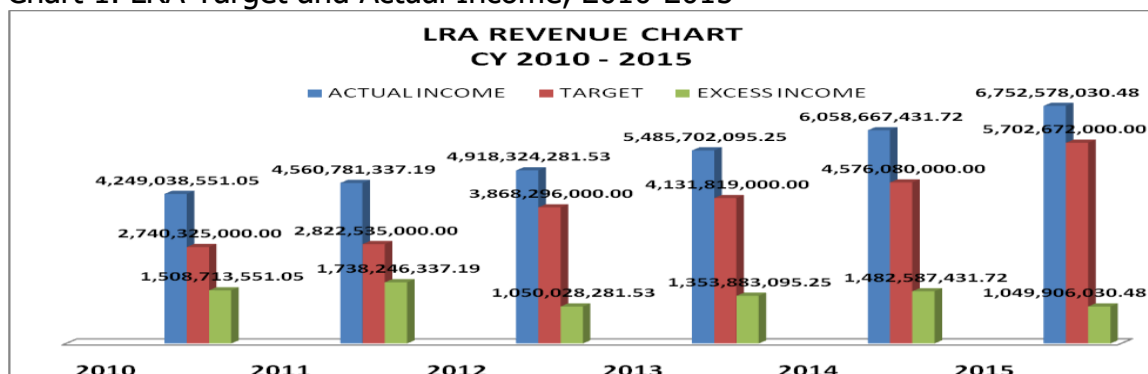
- Continuous empowerment, capacity building, enhancement of the skills and competence of the PAO lawyers and staff through the holding of workshops and seminars such as the PAO’s Advanced Training/Workshop in Forensic Medicine and Science;
- Development of an internal operating system to address all Information Technology (IT) concerns, for the rendition of prompt and more effective legal services to the indigents;
- Maintain and upgrade the PAO forensic Laboratory for the furtherance of investigation being conducted relative to the cases being handled by the Office.
- Continuously carry out activities and outreach programs for inmates such as the Free Legal and Medical Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program
- Organization, establishment and maintenance of database, case management and monitoring system for all cases handled by PAO nationwide
- Vigorous efforts to enhance the financial and non-financial incentives of lawyers and staff to motivate them in discharging their duties

Land Registration Authority

In furtherance of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) mandate in the protection of the integrity of our Torrens System of land titling and registration, and in consonance with the commitment of the President towards good governance “Daang Matuwid”, the agency’s 2015 accomplishments is highlighted by its revenue collection and its three major thrusts – Land Titling Computerization Project (LTCP), drive against fake land titles, and professionalism in the bureaucracy.

LRA’s income is sourced from registration fees, legal research fees, verification fees, and filing fees collected by the Registries of Deeds nationwide and other various fees collected by the Central Office. As shown in Chart 1, during the previous years, the LRA has been consistently achieving milestones in its income-generating efforts. For FY 2015, the targeted income was only P5.70 billion while the actual income generated was P6.75 billion, or 18% higher than said target.

Chart 1. LRA Target and Actual Income, 2010-2015



Source: LRA Yearend Report, 2015

Land Titling Computerization Project

The Land Titling and Computerization Project (LTCP) is aimed at securing land titles and related documents, preventing the issuance of dubious, duplicate (double) and overlapping titles and providing speedy lot status verification with a feature on anytime/anywhere query on land research.

Out of the 164 target Registries of Deeds, 159 sites were delivered and 155 "Live", which account to more than 95% of LRA's transactions are now using their respective IT facilities for processing of transactions. These "live" RDs, are ready to accept transactions such as Anywhere 2 Anywhere (A2A) where one can request certified true copy of titles of any title from any Registry in the country.

Professionalism in the Bureaucracy

The LRA advocates to fully professionalize the ranks, and guarantees its continuous strengthening by formation seminars and trainings for the newly appointed and promoted personnel, strict implementation of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) and implementation of Anti-corruption measures.

As of 2015, there were 135 new appointees and 135 promotees. The new appointees were trained in the Philippine Land Registration and Information System (PHILARIS) system wherein land titles and deeds transactions are processed and registered.

Physical Accomplishment Report

The agency performance measure on the number of registration transactions resulting to issuance of title acted upon is 679,272 or 99.02% of its 686,000 target. On the other hand, as to the number of registration transactions other than those resulting to issuance of title acted upon, the LRA has accomplished 4,083,758 or 118.37% of its 3,450,000 target.

Drive Against Proliferation of Fake Land Titles

In line with its mandate to protect and preserve the stability and integrity of land ownership and maintain the trust and confidence of the public in the Torrens System, the LRA spearheaded the establishment of Task Force Titulong Malinis (TFTM) composed of the LRA, DOJ, OSG, the then Presidential Anti-Organize Crime Task Force), with the signing of the MOA on 15 September 1998.

To date, records show that the TFTM has already completed investigation of more or less 1,300 cases involving almost 2,700 spurious/fraudulently issued Certificates of Title.

Presidential Commission on Good Government

The PCGG was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 1 of then President Corazon Aquino on February 28, 1986. Its primary mandate is to assist the President in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth of former President Marcos, his immediate family, relatives, subordinates and close associates, whether here or abroad, investigation of corruption cases as the President may assign and the adoption of safeguards to ensure that the aforementioned practices shall not be repeated, and to institute adequate measures to prevent the occurrence of corruption.

PCGG dedicates itself to restore the institution's integrity and credibility, aligning its organization and efforts by recalling the noble intentions for which it was created. To secure its place in history, by creating a legacy built on transparency, integrity, and accountability – and, in doing, become the People's Commission, and a model agency and exemplar for governance. To become the Commission on informed policy analysis and studies on techniques and methods to combat and prevent corruption.

Cash Recoveries

For CY 2015, PCGG has remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) the total amount of P14,024,344,859.63. This include the amount of P21,212,233.34, representing remittances of rental of various PCGG/IRC Properties; full payment from sale of Bugarin Properties in the amount of P141,932,210.15; dividend proceeds from Investment Unlimited in the amount of P2,203,697.77; the amount of P1,712,486 representing cash portion, matured bond, and corresponding accrued interest thereof on the compensation for IRC landholdings in Cavite province covered by CARP; and payment of Bid Documents for Ortigas Property in the amount of P800,000.00. This also include the recovered CIIF-14 Holding Companies Funds in the amount of P13,809,628,594.31; the proceeds of the SMC dividends in the amount of P19,345,437.30; the proceeds of income from BASECO in the amount of P26,000,000.00, and the proceeds of rental of the Galleria and Genito Apartments in the amount of P1,500,000.00 and P10,200.00 respectively.

Remittances to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

As mandated under Section 63 (b), Chapter XIV of Republic Act No. 6657, otherwise known as "The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law", the PCGG remitted the net proceeds of the disposal of surrendered assets to the BTr for the account of CARP from 1987 to present the total amount P78,100,452,956.90.

These remittances were used to implement various CARP related projects, such as: construction of farm to market roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, acquisition of post harvest facilities, rural electrification, potable water supply, school buildings, extension and training services, credit assistance, 2,056 scholarships, 1,784 Agrarian Reform Communities nationwide, 5,053 farmer organizations formed with 497,293 members, and other related agricultural projects.

PCGG has recovered and transferred to DAR 1,650 hectares of agricultural land which were distributed to farmer beneficiaries of Cavite and Laguna. Another vast area in Biliran Province consisting of 1,407 hectares had been transferred to the provincial government and distributed to legitimate farmer beneficiaries of the province.

Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) is an office attached to the DOJ, by virtue of Republic Act No. 9285, otherwise known as the "Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004". It is mandated to promote, develop and expand the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the country both in the public and private sectors.

Accomplishments:

- OADR participated in dialogues between ADR stakeholders in order to integrate the plans and programs of OADR with global trends and practices;
- Various trainings were conducted around the country to promote and expand the use of ADR in the private and public sector;
- Initiated a number of public awareness and education campaign such as launching of OADR trademark, the "Super Ador and Express Justice Series", OADR Newsletter, Roadshows, and Caravan;
- Finalized the Training Module for the Katarungan Pambarangay;
- Developed Trainer's Training Module Module on Basic ADR Skills for Lupong Tagapamayapa and Facilitators Guide;
- Finalized Revised Procedure of Presidential Decree No. 242 dated July 9, 1973
- Developed Internal (Operational) Guidelines in the Conduct of Mediation Proceedings;
- Developed ADR Training Module for Government Agencies;
- Initial implementation of the accreditation of ADR Practitioners.

DOJ Action Center (DOJAC)

At the forefront of the social and legal services of the DOJ is an Action Center, which was set up primarily to provide free legal assistance to the people especially the marginalized sector. The DOJAC assists in the speedy resolution/action of problems these groups encounter with DOJ offices and agencies or any other government office. Walk-in clients and callers can talk to a lawyer or paralegal officer for needed assistance.

For the period January to December 2015, DOJAC at the DOJ central office extended various legal assistance/services to a total of 14,315 clients. The nature of the client's requests and complaints ranged from legal advice to solutions of problems involving land titles, follow-up on various cases, financial claims, and others. In 2015, DOJAC central received numerous positive feedbacks for its fast response and immediate action to requests by clients.

Legal assistance/services were provided to 787 Senior Citizens and 53 Persons with disabilities in 2015. Gender sensitive interview rooms are also available where 164 clients were able to use the facility.

Department Legislative Services

The Department Legislative Liaison Office has evolved from the time of then President Corazon Aquino approved on April 27, 1988 with the issuance of Cabinet Resolution No. 16 mandating the appointment of full-time legislative liaison officers in all departments. The DLLO is responsible in ensuring that the Department performs functions relative to legislative matters.

In year 2015, a total of 89 position papers were submitted to both Houses of Congress and the Office of the President. The Department was also represented in 180 legislative hearings in both houses of Congress.

Through the DLLO, the Department was also able to contribute either through submission of comment on enrolled Bills to the Office of the President or by its participation during the deliberation or hearing in both Houses of Congress in the formulation of 43 Republic Acts.

In line with the priority measures of the administration, the DLLO will continue to shepherd and push for the passage of bills on Amendments to the Witness Protection Act, Whistleblower's Act, and Amendments to the current environmental laws specifically in the areas of illegal mining and illegal logging.