

# Department of Justice ANNUAL REPORT

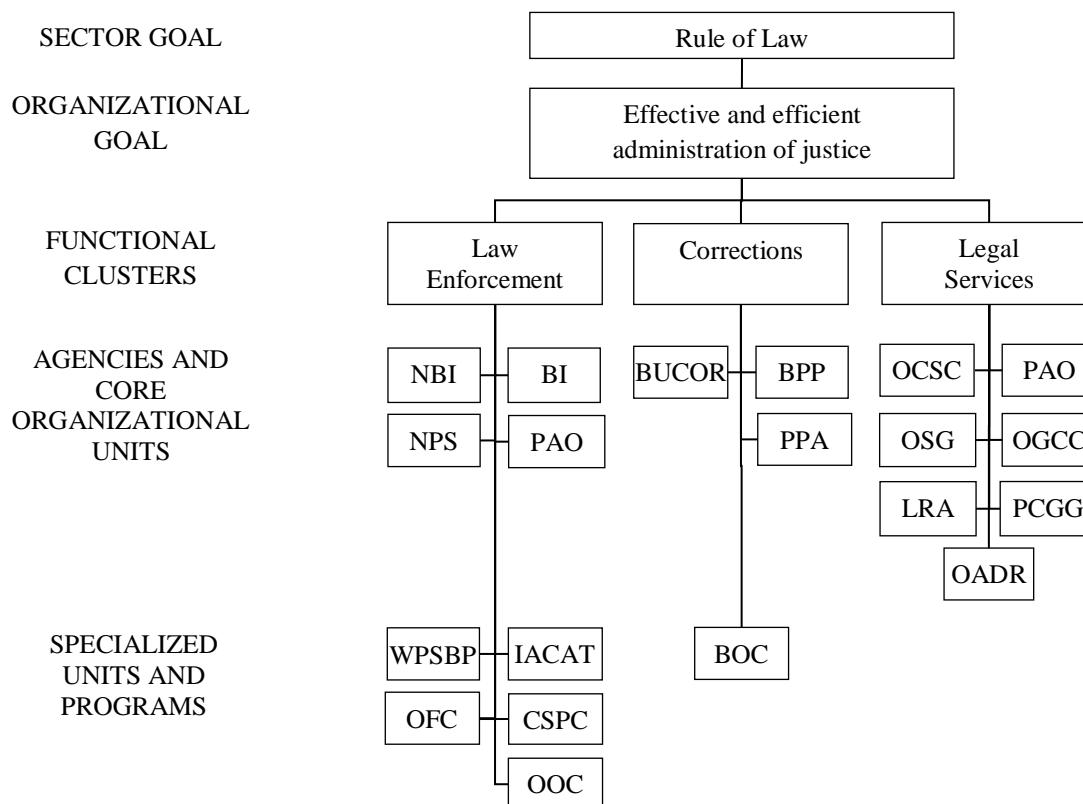
**CY 2016**

## 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.

1. Detection and investigation – This is a primary function of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).
2. Immigration enforcement – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) enforces the Philippine Immigration Law and certain provisions of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Special enforcement services – This includes specialized services of the Office of Cybercrime (OOC), Office for Competition (OFC), Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), Committee for Special Protection of Children (CSPC) and Administrative Order No. 35 (AO 35) Task Force.

### **National Bureau of Investigation**

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is mandated by RA No. 10867, otherwise known as the “NBI Reorganization and Modernization Act”, to undertake, among others, the investigation and detection of crimes enumerated in the said law, act as national clearing house of criminal records and other related information for the benefit of the government, render technical assistance to government agencies as requested, and establish/maintain modern forensic, cyber and other facilities/equipment for investigation, detection and evidence gathering.

In 2016, the NBI Investigative and Intelligence Services, as well as the Regional Services received a total of 61,266 cases representing a 4.5% increase compared to CY 2015. As of end of the year, terminated cases totaled 59,726. For the same year, it handled 25,606 criminal cases, 5,299 service cases and 45,664 miscellaneous cases. Out of the total crime cases terminated, 2,947 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 24,374 cases terminated with 1,307 court appearances nationwide.

With regard to clearance processing/issuance, 7,031,987 clearance applications were received by the NBI nationwide for various purposes. Clearance processed increased by 9.9% compared to the 6,396,724 certificates issued in 2016.

## Significant Accomplishments:

1. Seizure by operatives of NBI-Task Force Against Illegal Drugs (NBI-TFAID) of a total 890 kilograms worth billions of pesos of high-grade methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in a series of operations culminating on 23 December 2016;
2. NBI Anti-Illegal Drugs Division arrested two (2) jail guards and eleven (11) others in New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) for maintaining and operating a drug den at a compound just across the maximum security facility of the NBP;
3. Addong Salahuddin a.k.a. Addong Salapuddin, an alleged suspect in the Zamboanga City International Airport bombing in 2010, surrendered to the officials of the NBI;
4. Arrested Paul Biteng and Joenel De Asis for hacking Commission on Elections (COMELEC) website on 27 March 2016. Biteng admitted defacing the website while De Asis is the one responsible for uploading the 340 gigabytes COMELEC data. Both admitted hacking the website to prove its vulnerability;
5. Arrested Hae Sung Kim, a Korean fugitive facing fraud charges in South Korea for evading trial on accusations that he took a total of \$500,000 equivalent to Php 23.6 million;
6. NBI in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Inter-Agency Council Against Human Trafficking and Internal Justice Mission arrested Shaira Candaza, Girlie Candaza, Estrellita Candaza, Mary Rose Reyes, and Mary Grace Cahanding for human trafficking; and
7. NBI conducted numerous operations resulting in the seizure of various counterfeit items and products of different brands of footwear, medicines, apparel, electronic and electrical gadgets, computers with an aggregated amount of staggering P2.4 billion.

## **National Prosecution Service (NPS)**

The National Prosecution Service (NPS) (under the DOJ Proper) is mandated by RA No. 10071 otherwise known as the Prosecution Service Act of 2010 to be primarily responsible for the preliminary investigation and prosecution of all cases involving violations of penal laws. This involves determination of probable cause to criminally indict a person and subsequent prosecution in court, including cases with which the NPS has concurrent jurisdiction with the Office of the Ombudsman.

As of the end of CY 2016, 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 2,341 prosecution officers (prosecutors and prosecution attorneys) and 1,698 administrative support staff.

As shown in Table 1, authorized prosecution officer positions increased from 2,416 in 2013 to 3,524 as of end of 2016 (in line with implementation of RA 10071). In terms of vacancy, the overall vacancy rate was reduced from 47% in 2015 to 34% in 2016, due to the intensified hiring and signing of appointments for prosecution officer positions. For the support staff, vacancy rate decreased from 20% in 2011 to 13% in 2016. Despite this, support staff remained severely deficient in most

prosecution offices especially with the creation of new cities, which require the establishment of new prosecution offices.

Table 1. NPS Staffing Statistics, 2010-2016

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<u>Prosecution Officers</u>							
Authorized Positions	2,410	2,411	2,412	2,416	3,484	3,510	3,524
Filled Positions	1,864	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	1,907	2,341
Vacant Positions	546	581	562	558	1,627	1,657	1,183
Vacancy Rate	23%	24%	23%	23%	47%	47%	34%
<u>Support Staff</u>							
Authorized Positions	1,945	1,945	1,944	1,945	1,946	1,946	1,946
Filled Positions	1,602	1,558	1,665	1,688	1,719	1,701	1,698
Vacant Positions	343	387	279	257	227	245	248
Vacancy Rate	18%	20%	14%	13%	12%	13%	13%
<u>Other Support Staff</u>							
LGU-provided	882	1,027	1,009	1,018	912	942	959
Other agencies	23	39	27	29	29	21	7
Other sources	6	3	3	3	9	2	7
Total	911	1,069	1,039	1,050	950	965	973

### Investigation and Prosecution Services

Based on available statistics in 2016 as of report preparation (i.e. from reports received at 96% submission rate), the NPS handled 429,684 complaints for preliminary investigation (PI) and resolved 373,853 cases, which constitute the bulk of the workload of prosecution officers. Annual disposition rate increased from 74.6% in 2010 to 80% in 2015 and to 87% by end of 2016.

On the average, one prosecutor handled 184 and resolved 160 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 decreased from 218 in 2014 to 184 per prosecutor in 2016 due to the increase in the number of prosecutors handling the cases.

Table 2. NPS Preliminary Investigation Case Load and Disposition, 2010-2016

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<u>Case Load</u>							
Cases Handled	334,398	342,537	353,647	389,565	404,613	406,016	429,684
Filled Positions	1,864	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018	2,341
Average per Prosecutor	179	187	191	210	218	201	184
<u>Disposition</u>							
Resolved Cases	249,550	262,977	271,292	305,016	325,868	324,795	373,853
Disposition Rate	74.6%	76.8%	76.7%	78.3%	80.5%	80.0%	87.0%
<u>Pending Cases</u>	84,848	79,560	82,355	84,549	78,745	81,221	55,831

With regard to investigation aging, available data in Table 3 shows that there was a significant 8.7% decrease in nationwide backlog (complaints pending beyond 120 days—maximum reglementary period prescribed in the 2008 Revised Prosecutor’s Manual) from 58.5% in 2015 to 49.8% in 2016.

**Table 3. Aging of Complaints Pending Resolution in the NPS, 2010-2016**

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<u>Within the reglementary period</u>	40.0%	46.4%	48.5%	42.6%	44.8%	41.5%	50.2%
60 days and below	24.1%	27.9%	26.6%	26.8%	27.8%	26.3%	34.1%
More than 60 days up to 120 days	15.9%	18.5%	21.9%	15.8%	17.0%	15.2%	16.1%
<u>Beyond the reglementary period</u>	60.0%	53.6%	51.4%	57.5%	55.2%	58.5%	49.8%
More than 120 days up to 1 year	23.2%	20.3%	23.6%	24.2%	23.6%	21.2%	16.0%
More than 1 year	36.8%	33.3%	27.8%	33.3%	31.6%	37.3%	33.8%

*Source: Yearend inventory of pending cases from prosecution offices nationwide*

Besides the above investigation workload, there were 917,651 criminal cases in the first and second level trial courts attended to by prosecutors nationwide for 2016 based on historical data of the Criminal Case Inflow and Outflow Report from the Supreme Court. On the average, a prosecutor handled around 392 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 number of criminal cases in the lower courts and average case load per prosecutor from 2010 to 2016.

**Table 4. Criminal Cases in Lower Courts, 2010-2016**

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Criminal Cases in Lower Courts*	708,415	706,406	726,195	732,496	773,115	827,662	917,651
Filled Positions	1,863	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018	2,341
Average per Prosecutor	380	400	401	405	420	403	392
Prosecution Success Rate**	68.2%	65.3%	71.2%	68.3%	73.4%	71.9%	77.8%

*\*Source: Supreme Court – Court Management Office*

*\*\*Convictions as a percent of total convictions and acquittals, excluding dismissals*

Based on available reported statistics from the NPS, prosecution success rate in 2016 was at 77.8%, which was higher than the 68.2% in 2010 and about 6% higher than the 71.9% in 2015. 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 prosecutors and/or 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, s. 2012.

For 2016, the following key initiatives are undertaken:

1. Formulation of a Case Decongestion Program;
2. Updating of the Prosecutor's Manual;
3. Implementation of Quality Management System for case management; and
4. Initial implementation of enhanced electronic case management system.

## **Bureau of Immigration**

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is responsible for 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, otherwise known as Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, and tasked to adopt measures for the apprehension of suspected traffickers both at the place of arrival and departure, and ensure compliance by the Filipino fiancés/fiancées and spouses of foreign nationals with the guidance and counseling requirement pursuant to RA No. 9208 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 and its implementing rules and regulations.

For the year 2016, BI processed 26,791,878 passenger entries and exits in all ports of the country. BI has also processed 1,078,320 immigration registration and transactions/documents, which is 43% higher than the 754,093 in 2015.

The BI collected P3.8 billion, which proves that BI continuously contributes substantial revenue to the national treasury from immigration fees, taxes, fines, penalties and ACR I Card collection. The Bureau's collection is 16.69% higher than 2015 actual collection and surpassed the 2016 target collection by 13.13%.

For 2016, there are 305,459 tourist visa transactions facilitated, an increase of 15.15% from 265,266 transactions recorded in 2015. Among the received applications at the BI Main Office alone, there were 76,133 applications from Chinese nationals which cover 30.6% of the total applications and followed by South Koreans and Americans with 26, 706 and 12, 324 applications, respectively.

A total of 87,896 Alien Certificate of Registration Identity Cards was issued or 48.10% increase from CY 2015. The biggest number of cards was issued to non-immigrants with a total of 56,321 issued cards.

### **Challenges and Constraints**

1. Approval/passage of a New Immigration Bill
2. Lack of manpower
3. High turn-over and reshuffling of officials and employees
4. Offloading or deferred departure
5. Mounting of and relocation to the new BI main office
6. Procurement constraints resulting to lack of facilities and equipment
7. Poor/lack of internet connectivity at the BI main office and terminals

## Major Plans and Targets for CY 2017

1. Enhancement of Immigration regulations, processes and procedures;
  - a. Full and complete implementation of the Bureau of Immigration Information System (BIIS) and its related systems;
  - b. Full development and implementation of an online visa application, processing, approval and issuance system;
  - c. Improve and enhance the security features of all accountable immigration forms and documents, including the Alien Certificate of Registration Identity Card (ACR-I Card); and
  - d. Complete the documentation of all policies, rules, regulations, procedures and guidelines and issue "BI Omnibus Operations and regulations Manual"
2. Border control management;
  - a. Augment the presence of BI personnel in identified border crossing areas in Mindanao and increase their equipment and logistical capabilities;
  - b. Developing and implementing an Intelligence Data Advancement System and Alien Traffic Monitoring System; and
  - c. Institute the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) in all international ports of entry and exit;
3. Organizational Reforms;
  - a. Pursue the lobby with the Philippine Congress for the enactment of a new Philippine Immigration Act;
  - b. Establish an Internal Audit Office to conduct periodic and impromptu management and systems audit and inspections, monitor the Bureau-wide compliance of the Anti-Red Tape Act, Integrity Development Review, Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Employees and other good governance measures.

### **Public Attorney's Office – Public Defense**

The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) as an attached agency for policy and program coordination purposes, is mandated by EO No. 292 s. 1987 as amended by RA 9406 to extend free legal services 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, and miscellaneous legal advice and documentation.

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.

Currently, PAO has 18 regional offices, 298 district and 6 sub-district offices, two Regional Special and Appealed Cases Units, one satellite office, and one annex. As of December 2016, PAO has 1,688 public attorneys handling criminal and civil cases before the courts nationwide. About 59 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 148,716 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 52,724 cases involving women and 22,136 cases involving children in conflict with the law (CICL). Out of this number of cases 25,571 and 6,176 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**

As provided by RA No. 6981, the program is intended to encourage persons who have witnessed or have knowledge of the commission of crimes to testify before a court or quasi-judicial body, or an investigating authority, by protecting them from reprisals and from economic dislocation.

The WPSBP started the year 2016 with 570 covered witnesses. Within the year, 126 witnesses were admitted to the program, the coverage of 105 *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 2016, the total number of witnesses covered by the WPSBP was 591. In the same year, a conviction rate of 87.18% was obtained wherein out of 73 cases decided, 34 cases won.

WPP puts due importance to witnesses/whistleblowers in corruption cases which have assumed national importance and have invited keen public interest. It also takes part in campaign against proliferation of drug syndicates and human trafficking by covering twelve (12) and eighty-one (81) witnesses, respectively.

WPP also continues to cover witnesses in high profile cases such as plunder cases against high government officials, the Mamasapano case which resulted to the death of forty-four (44) members of the Special Action Force, and Atimonan multiple murder case.

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.

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 2017, WPSBP intends to pursue or undertake the following:

1. Active implementation of the Program by increasing the people's awareness on protection and benefits for those who will satisfy in cases involving grave felonies;
2. Enhancement of witness benefits such as increasing economic benefits, continue of livelihood activities for witnesses and provision of psycho social counseling;
3. Professionalization of personnel complement thru representations with Congress for conversion of Program into Bureau with regular security/administrative personnel; and
4. 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 Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) is created by RA No. 9208, otherwise known as the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003", the Council is composed of the Secretary of Justice as the Chair, DSWD Secretary as Co-Chair, and members from particular line Departments/Agencies and NGOs. The Secretariat and budget are with the DOJ. The IACAT is mandated to formulate, promulgate, initiate, coordinate and monitor policies, programs, projects, activities and other courses of action that will prevent and suppress trafficking in persons, as well as monitor/coordinate the implementation of RA 9208.

On June 30, 2016, the Philippines was finally upgraded to Tier 1 after being in Tier 2 for five consecutive years prior. In the 2016 Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of the US State Department, countries under Tier 1 fully meet the minimum standards for elimination of human trafficking under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Philippines is the only Southeast Asian Country currently under Tier 1. In the same year, the Global Slavery Index ranked the Philippines as first in Asia, third in Asia-Pacific and 29<sup>th</sup> in the world for the government response to modern slavery, with BB rating. The Global Slavery Index seeks to mobilize action against human exploitation by quantifying the scale of the problem and the quality of current responses.

These two recognitions signify the Philippine Government's effective implementation of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking Second National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2012-2016) wherein all the plans, programs and activities of the Council are aligned into four key result areas: advocacy and prevention; protection, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration; prosecution and law enforcement; and partnership and networking.

The IACAT has, on record, a total of 44 convictions which resulted to the conviction of 53 traffickers from January to December 2016. Since the effectivity of RA 9208 in 2003, the Philippines has reported a total of 274 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) convictions involving 304 trafficking offenders.

Major plans:

1. Strengthen institutional management and operations of the IACAT;
2. Develop or enhance policies to intensify anti-trafficking interventions;
3. Capacitate law enforcers, service providers and stakeholders; and
4. Strengthen provision of direct interventions and victim-centric services.

### **Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC)**

The Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) – Created by EO No. 275 s. 1995, as amended by EO No. 53, s. 2011, the Committee is composed of the Secretary of Justice as Chair with the DSWD Secretary as Co-Chair and members from particular line Departments/Agencies and NGOs. The CSPC is mandated as the body principally responsible for coordinating and monitoring the investigation and prosecution of cases involving violations of RA No. 7610, otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act” and other child-related criminal laws. The CSPC is also responsible for formulating and monitoring the Comprehensive Program Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination mandated under RA No. 7610. The CSPC budget is lodged in the DOJ while the Council of the Welfare of Children is designated as Secretariat.

The convergence of different agency councils and committees, i.e. CSPC, IACAT and Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP), was initiated in 2014 in line with the country’s participation in the Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online. The convergence initiative resulted to harmonized online child protection programs including multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach and training module which was validated in February 2016 and pilot tested in March and April 2016 in Subic Zambales and Cagayan de Oro, respectively.

As part of the GAD Plan of the Department, the guidelines on the establishment of gender-sensitive and child friendly public assistance desks and interview/investigation rooms in DOJ prosecution offices was formulated in 2016 for approval, issuance and implementation starting 2017. The said guidelines are intended to harmonize and formalize facility/procedural standards for women and children, integrating therein requirements pertaining to privacy, confidentiality, non-discrimination and best interest of the child relative to legal protection and referral mechanisms.

In 10 October 2016 the Committee for Women and Children was established under Department Order No. 717. The Committee serves as the Department’s Gender and Development Focal Point pursuant to R.A. No. 9710 or the Magna Carta for Women. Likewise, it undertakes the Department’s role in the different inter-agency bodies such as PCW, IACVAWC, NSCWPS, CWC, CSPC, JJWC, IACACP and NYC including representation, convening, coordination, planning, and policy/program/project.

## Major Plans

1. Further implementation of the MDTs for the Case Management Protocol and Online Child Abuse Module among national agencies and local government units in priority/high risk areas.
2. Establishment of Gender-Sensitive and Child Friendly Public Assistance Desks and Investigation/interview rooms in prosecution offices nationwide;
3. Pursue the establishment of an Office for Women and Children in the DOJ apart from other operations and management/support units.

## Office for Competition

Mandated by RA No. 10667, otherwise known as the "Philippine Competition Act", to conduct preliminary investigation and undertake prosecution of all criminal offenders arising from the said law and other competition-related laws.

In compliance with the pertinent provisions of the PCA regarding the conduct of preliminary inquiry by the PCC, the OFC endorsed the 38 cases pending in its docket to the PCC. Moreover, the OFC discontinued its review of pending merger applications referred to it by the SEC given that this function was already transferred to the PCC. Said documents were returned to the SEC for appropriation action.

The OFC further assisted in the transition by informing relevant national and international partners of the creation of the PCC and its functions under the new comprehensive competition law. During the year 2016, a series of briefings/consultations were held between the OFC and PCC to discuss the status of the country's commitments in the AEGC, RCEP and other competition bodies. The OFC facilitated the transition by attending the 17<sup>th</sup> AEGC Meeting alongside the PCC in Lao PDR on 22-24 March 2016. The OFC reported on the status of Philippine commitments such as brainstorming on the Proposed Regional Cooperation Agreement and the hosting of AEGC Web portal.

At present, the office is still in the process of reorganizing and aligning its structure, and duties and responsibilities with the provisions of the PCA. The two (2) year transition period from the effectivity of the law will end in 2017 August.

## 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.

OOC directly receives reports of online child sexual exploitation cases from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Point of Contact (POC). An average of 1,250 reports of child exploitation per month are being received by the OOC where either the offended party or the offender is in the Philippines. All these

NCMEC reports are being shared with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography, PNP and NBI.

In 2016, OOC as National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC's) point of contact in the Philippines reported 37,715 online child pornography from DOJ OOC, 196 from Philippine National Police and 129 from National Bureau of Investigation.

#### Other Accomplishments

1. On 23-24 June 2016, the OOC, in partnership with the COE, Supreme Court, and Philippine Judicial Academy, conducted the Judicial Conference on Cybercrime to determine the gaps between the procedural and substantive law concerning cybercrime and electronic evidence; and
2. The draft Rules of Procedures for Cybercrime and Cyber Related Cases was formally endorsed to the Supreme Court for review and approval;

#### Major Plans and Targets for CY 2017

1. Ratification of Budapest Convention on Cybercrime;
2. Access to International Child Sex Exploitation Database;
3. Strengthen Data Privacy and Protection;
4. Draft Guidelines on Cybercrime Investigation for Investigators and Prosecutors;
5. Centralized victim identification program;
6. Capacity building (National Computer Forensics Training Program, First cyber-responders training, and cybercrime investigations); and
7. 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**

The Inter-Agency Committee on Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and Other Grave Violations to the Right to Life, Liberty, and Security of Persons or otherwise known as the "AO 35 Task Force" and Chaired by the Secretary of Justice, is created under Administrative Order No. 35, s. 2012, mandated to undertake inventory, investigation, prosecution, monitoring and reporting of such cases. The budget and secretariat of the Task Force is with the DOJ.

As of 2016, there were twenty-nine (29) cases/incidents processed involving extra-judicial killings, media-related killings, torture, enforced disappearances and other grave human rights violations which were resourced from PNP, NBI, AFP, PHRC, OPAPP, UN, UNESCO, DFA and other agencies.

For 2017, the Task Force intends to formulate a strategic action plan and establish better coordination and cooperation among prosecutors and law enforcers in the investigation and prosecution of AO 35 case/incidents.

## **CORRECTIONS**

This involves custody of criminal offenders serving prison sentence and their rehabilitation towards eventual restoration and reintegration, as well as compensation for victims of unjust imprisonment and violent crimes.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Victims compensation – The government provides monetary compensation for victims of unjust imprisonment and violent crimes and through the Victims Compensation Program implemented by the BOC.

### **Bureau of Corrections**

Under RA No. 10575, otherwise known as “The Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013”, the agency is in charge of safekeeping and instituting reformation programs to national inmates sentenced to more than three (3) years imprisonment.

#### **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 41,069 prisoners wherein 38,126 are males and 2,943 are females which are distributed in its seven (7) operating prisons and penal farms (OPPFs) throughout the country. Out of this number, a total of 5,955 were admitted at the Assessment, Rehabilitation, Program Development and Monitoring Division of NBP, of which 4% were re-offenders and the rest were first-time inmates in the BuCor.

The over-all congestion rate in BuCor prison facilities decreased from 158% in 2015 to 115% based on international parameters. The decrease in congestion was due to construction of additional dormitories at the Operating Prison and Penal Farms (OPPFs).

From January to December 2016, a total of 4,165 inmate carpentas were forwarded to the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) for review and evaluation. There were 5,132 released inmates, a 25% 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 seventeen (17) for 2016, 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 12,838 assorted contrabands at NBP alone. For the year 2016, a total of 16,636 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 2016 with daily average inmate participation of at least 41,069 (92%). The enrollees in formal and non-formal BuCor Education Program are at 6,917 or 17% of the inmate population. Religious services, counseling sessions and other moral/spiritual formation activities also benefited at least 30,588 inmates.

For its medical, dental and other health care services, a total of 162,100 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, pulmonary tuberculosis, and hypertension.

In 2016, at least 19,631 inmates or 48% 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 25,439 or 62% of total inmate population actively participated in sports, recreation and wellness programs.

### Other Accomplishments

1. Updating of BuCor procedural policies and systems;
2. BuCor Modernization Law or RA 10575 – the DBMs Organization Position Compensation and Classification Bureau is in its final stage of evaluation for the first phase of implementation of BuCor's Modernization Act;
3. BuCor Roadmap 2016-2028; and
4. Facilitate the requirement and documentation on ISO –Aligned QMS Quality Manual, Work Procedure and Work Instructions including forms.

### Challenges and Constraints

1. Overcrowding due to lack of facilities to house new committals with an inmate population growth at an average of 2-3% since 2011;
2. Wide gap of correctional officer to inmate ratio at 1:63 computed on 3 shifts per day basis;
3. Lack of funds for intelligence operations and other security equipment and enough budget for inmates' basic needs;
4. Influence of moneyed and influential inmates posed serious threat to the institution;
5. Lack of rehabilitation facility, equipment and rehabilitation officers to aid in the assessment and monitor progress of inmates participating in rehabilitation programs; and

6. Delays in the implementation of the BuCor's RA 10575 pending DBM approval of the proposed BuCor Organizational Structure, modification/completion of staffing pattern and creation of new position items relative to the full implementation of the BuCor Law.

#### Plans and Programs for 2017

1. Continue the implementation of the Drug-Free Workplace Policy facilitate the implementation of RA 10575 or the BuCor Modernization Act of 2013;
2. Updating of the BuCor's Procedural Policies and Systems;
3. Pursue land titling of Bucor lands;
4. NBP transfer/regionalization;
5. Establish Inmates Visitor Information System, Inmates and Prison Incidents Recording and Monitoring System;
6. Finalization of the Scorecard for the BuCor Road Map 2016-2028; and
7. Full computerization of Inmates' Records using the Inmate Management Information System

### **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 2016, BPP posted 91.79% disposition rate for cases involving parole and recommendation for Executive Clemency. Out of 5,772 total carpetas received, 5,261 cases were submitted for Board action.

BPP received and handled a total of 2,122 Summary Reports in 2016. Out of this number, 1,641 were issued certificates of final release and discharge, 8 cases were either denied or deferred. A total of 424 communications were acknowledged, filed or verified, achieving 88.63% disposition rate. In the case of infraction reports and requests for transfer of residence, 420 out of 653 infraction reports and 300 out of 322 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 2016, BPP released 13,447 replies to petitions and attended to 4,940 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 220 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. On August 17, 2005, by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Administration performs another additional function of investigating and supervising first-time minor drug offenders who are placed on suspended sentence pursuant to R.A. No. 9165.

As of 2016, the PPA handled a total of 25,980 probation and pre-parole/pre executive clemency investigation cases from January to December 2016, of which 98.24% were completed/submitted to courts and/or the Board of Pardons and Parole. Likewise, 99.69% of recommendations were sustained by courts. PPA also supervised and/or monitored 43,879 probationers, parolees and pardonees. Out of these, 98.03% were parole/probation compliant, that are 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 2,138 clients involved in mediation; 22,591 in conferencing; 1,998 in circle of support and 1,825 other indigenous processes.

Clients are also mobilized to participate in or render community services, such as tree-planting, wherein 33,292 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 98.96%. 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, 88% 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 7,325 all over the country. There are also 586,179 rehabilitation and intervention services rendered to clients in 2016.

#### Other Accomplishments

1. Development of a Quality Management System Certifiable to ISO 9001-2015. The PPA is supported by Development Academy of the Philippines in the development of a QMS Certifiable to ISO 9001-2015.



2. In the implementation of the Program to Institute Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM), the Administration complied with on line self-assessment which is the first component of the program.

For 2017 plans and targets:

1. Strengthen the Volunteer Probation Aide Programs and enhance Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs including the establishment of halfway houses for inmates due for release (on parole or conditional pardon);
2. Mobilization of citizen's participation in rehabilitation activities of offenders and maintaining peace and order in the community by enlisting as Volunteer Probation Assistants;
3. Implementation of Recognizance Act of 2012 (RA 10389) and ensuring sensitivity and responsiveness of policies, systems, processes and services for the poor and vulnerable group; and
4. Strengthen partnership with the local government units, other justice sector agencies and community for promotion of correction and rehabilitation of offenders in a community-based setting.

### **Victims Compensation Program**

The Board of Claims (BOC) – Created by virtue of RA No. 7309, it is mandated to administer the Victims Compensation Program which provides a certain amount of monetary compensation to victims of violent crimes and unjust imprisonment or detention and victims of, with the objective of recompensing, to a certain extent, the damage to the lives of those who suffered from lawlessness and grave injustice.

From January to December 2016, the Board handled a total of 2,397 applications for disposition, wherein 2,097 were acted upon and 300 pending at the end of the period, having a disposition rate of 87%. A total of 1,400 victims of violent crimes were granted monetary compensation by the VCP.

For 2017, the Program intends to expand the coverage and information dissemination of the Program and amend the Victims Compensation Act by increasing the amount of benefits.

## LEGAL SERVICES

Legal services – Provision of various legal services for the government, its corporations and the public.

1. Legal services for the government – The Office of the Chief State Counsel (DOJ Legal Staff) assists the Secretary of Justice in the discharge of functions as Attorney General. The Office of the OSG and OGCC serve as legal counsel of the government and its corporations, respectively.
2. Free legal assistance for the public – The 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 regulations.
3. Alternative dispute resolution – The OADR is mandated to promote, develop and expand the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the private and the public sectors.
4. Land registration – The LRA protects the property rights of land owners by implementing the Torrens system of land titling and registration.
5. Asset recovery – The PCGG recovers and administers ill-gotten wealth of former President Ferdinand Marcos, among other related legal functions.

### Legal Staff or the Office of the Chief State Counsel

The DOJ Legal Staff was created by R.A. No. 2705 and mandated by EO No. 292 s. 1987 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 government officials and employees as well as private parties.

For CY 2016, 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, 360 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 14,483 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 433 replies or legal advice at the instance of private parties and minor government officials and employees and prepared 222 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.

## **Office of the Government Corporate Counsel**

The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) is mandated by RA No. 2327, RA No. 3838, PD No. 1415 and other legislations and executive orders to be the legal counsel of government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCC's) and its subsidiaries, other corporate off-springs and government acquired asset corporations—representing government corporations before courts and quasi-judicial bodies, rendering legal opinions, reviewing contracts, investigating administrative cases against officials of government corporations, arbitrating disputes among government corporations, and exercising control and supervision over the legal departments of these corporations with the authority to allow the hiring of private lawyers by them.

In 2016, OGCC acted upon all (100%) requests for legal opinion and contract review, 664 of which were released, 82% over all compliance rate or a total of 542, were released within the 28-day period from receipt to release.

For its litigation function, OGCC handled a total of 5,193 cases for the year 2016, 90 cases were terminated by virtue of Entry of Judgment as issued by the Supreme Court and 329 were new cases received.

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

1. 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;
2. 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; and
3. OGCC lawyers attended Gibson Dunn International Arbitration Practice Group lecture on November 15, 2016.

## **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 2016, a total of 39,079 clients benefited from this service consisting of inquest assistance, legal advise/counseling and documentation.

For the period January to December 2016, PAO was able to assist a total of 8,839,742 indigent clients and handled a total of 850,298 cases nationwide. Based on the abovementioned figures, each PAO lawyer was able to assist an average of 5,237 clients and handled an average of 511 cases.

At the prosecutor's level, PAO was able to terminate 33,999 out of 68,838 handled cases. In addition, 9,188 out of the 34,341 civil cases, 3,803 out of the 12,842

administrative cases, and 64,949 out of 84,924 labor cases were disposed/terminated in 2016.

PAO renders mediation and conciliation services as part of its quasi-judicial function. In 2016, it handled a total of 252,185 disputes and resolved a total of 232,519 thereof. Likewise, a total of 198,863 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 4,788 beneficiaries. These consists 484 legal, 836 medical, 905 optical, and 142 dental assistance. PAO has also facilitated the release of 2,421 inmates, through the Program.

#### Continuing Plans and Programs

1. Conduct trainings/seminars on the 2016 Revised Operations Manual and Code of Conduct for Public Attorneys and Support Staff;
2. Organize the 6<sup>th</sup> Public Attorney's Office National Convention and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education for the enhancement of skills and competence of Public Attorneys;
3. Development of an internal operating system to address all Information Technology concerns, for the rendition of prompt and more effective legal services to the indigents;
4. Compliance with ISO 9000 and the Government Quality Management Systems Standards, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 161, dated October 5, 2006;
5. Maintain and upgrade the PAO Forensic Laboratory for the furtherance of investigation being conducted relative to cases handled by PAO;
6. Policy advocacy and coordination for the enhancement of the PAO Victims' Protection Unit.

#### **Land Registration Authority**

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) is mandated under PD No. 1529, as amended, 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 implements and protects the Torrens system of land titling and registration and serves as the central repository of all land records involving registered or titled lands.

The agency's 2016 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. During the previous years, the LRA has been consistently achieving milestones in its income-generating efforts. For FY 2016, the targeted income was only P6.36 billion while the actual income generated was P8.56 billion, or 35% higher than said target.

## Land Titling Computerization Project

The Land Titling and Computerization Project (LTCP) which is the fulcrum of all the technological undertakings of this Authority continuously modernizes the agency's equipment and facilities, and consistently enhances the land titling system which goal is no other than protecting the Torrens system and providing the transacting public no less than fast, reliable and accessible property registration services.

Out of the 164 target Registries of Deeds, 159 sites were delivered and 157 "Live", which account to more than 98% of LRA's transactions are now using their respective IT facilities for processing of transactions. Under the LTCP, 24 million titles were converted into digital format or 99% of conversion activities were achieved.

## Physical Accomplishment Report

The agency performance measure on the number of registration transactions resulting to issuance of title acted upon is 762,530 or 111.16% 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 4,804,093 or 139.25% of its 3,450,000 target.

## Drive Against Proliferation of Fake Land Titles

The Torrens Certificate of title serves as an indefeasible evidence of land ownership readily accepted as a reliable public instrument in real estate transactions as well as for financial and commercial purposes.

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 7 cases involving almost 127 spurious/fraudulently issued Certificates of Title.

## Plan for 2017

1. Nationwide replication of the project on the development of a quality management system certifiable to ISO 9001-2008;
2. Establishment of Information Communication Technology Program (ICT Productivity);
3. Development of LRA intranet web portal; and
4. Enhance LRA Action Agad Center

## **Presidential Commission on Good Government**

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) is mandated (a) by EO No. 1, s. 1987, to assist the President in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, his immediate family, relatives, subordinates and

close associates, whether in the Philippines or overseas, investigate corruption cases as the President may assign and adopt safeguards to ensure that the aforementioned practices shall not be repeated, and institute adequate measures to prevent the occurrence of corruption; and (b) by virtue of EO No. 432 s. 2005, PCGG has been empowered to assume the task of investigation, filing and prosecution of cases for recovery of claims arising out of non-performing loans whether behest or non-behest. EO No. 643 s. 2007 placed the PCGG under the administrative supervision of DOJ.

#### Cash Recoveries

For CY 2016, PCGG has remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) the total amount of P481,953,705.56 from the following income, proceeds or payment:

Particulars	Amount
Remittances of rental and interest income of various PCGG/IRC Properties	225,750,000
Full payment from sale of Banahaw Broadcasting Corporation Real Property in Legaspi City	P33,200,000
Wigman Compound in Baguio	20,742,600
Globe rental	511,105.56
Payment of bid documents of BBC Legaspi property, Wigwam Baguio, BBC Naga, Puerto Galera and Tagaytay	150,000
Proceeds from payment of SHOWA Shares of PIC	50,050,000
Disposal of scrap/junk furniture at JY Campos	50,000
Rental income of Galeria de Magallanes and BASECO	151,500,000

#### 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 in the amount P330,453,705.56.

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, scholarships, Agrarian Reform Communities nationwide, and other related agricultural projects.

#### Other accomplishments:

1. The PCGG, with the assistance of the DOJ and the OSG, was able to obtain the assistance of the US DOJ pursuant to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaty for the enforcement of the final judgments of the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court promulgated on 2 April 2009 and 25 April 2012, respectively, involving the assets of the Arelma S.A. formerly held by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, Inc. approximately amounting to \$40 million;

2. Privatization Council approval of the sale of Hawaii Jewelry Collection through international public auction at the minimum sale price of US \$14,095,930.00; and
3. Completed and submitted to the Office of the President a seven-volume inventory report of Coco Levy Fund, the laws establishing the said fund, its total collections and disbursements, including the creation of Coco Levy Fund, as well as pending coco levy cases, and the present status of said cases.

## **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.

The OADR, as a newly created attached agency under the DOJ, has pursued activities leading to its operation as an independent Office. In 2016, the OADR plantilla with sixty-three (63) positions including Executive Director was approved. The Ad Hoc Selection Committee for the selection and hiring of permanent personnel was also created to start hiring of personnel and eventually operationalize OADR as an attached agency of the DOJ.

In 2016, OADR conducted several trainings on basic ADR skills to promote and expand the use of ADR in private and public sector. It also initiated a number of public awareness and education campaign towards changing the mindset of public from adversarial to non-adversarial. OADR regularly participates in dialogues between and among ADR stakeholders to integrate the plans and programs of the OADR with the domestic and global trends and practices in ADR.

To institutionalize ADR rules, procedures and practices, OADR conducted five (5) technical working group meetings for the development and finalization of amendatory provisions to R.A. No. 9285 particularly on the chapter of Arbitration. The Strategic Action Plan (2013-2018) was revised to include dialogue and partnership with Indigenous Peoples practices. Further, the OADR conducted the final evaluation activities in relation to the Pilot Implementation of the Rules Governing Mediation Proceedings at the National Prosecution Service in Mandaue City, Cebu City, Davao City and Lipa Batangas City. The uniform rules governing PD No. 242 cases (Arbitration of Cases between and among government agencies) was likewise approved.

The plans of programs of the OADR for 2017 are centered in addressing the challenges by the Office, improve skills on ADR, education and awareness on ADR and institutionalizing ADR practices in the government.

## **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 2016, DOJAC at DOJ central office extended various legal assistance/services to a total of 13,335 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. Legal assistance/services were provided to 975 Senior Citizens and 46 Persons with disabilities in 2016. Gender sensitive interview rooms are also available where 218 clients were able to use the facility.