

Department of Justice ANNUAL REPORT

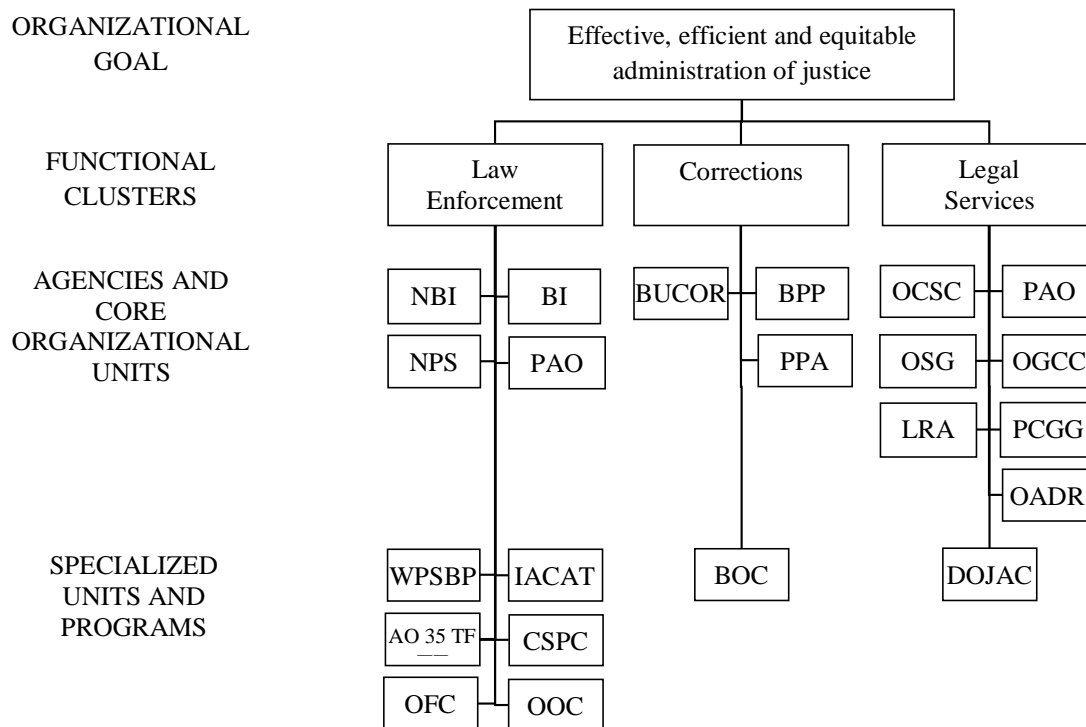
CY 2017

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 are categorized 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 is involved in implementing the law including detection and investigation of crimes/offenses, prosecution of offenders, protection and assistance for victims and offenders, and immigration enforcement.

1. Detection and investigation – This is the primary function of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).
2. Immigration enforcement – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) enforces the Philippine Immigration Law, Alien Registration Act 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 2017, the NBI Investigative and Intelligence Services, as well as the Regional Services received a total of 66,700 cases representing 8.9 % increase compared to CY 2016. By the end of the year, terminated cases totaled 66,086 representing 9% increase from the previous year with 59,726 terminated cases. For the same year, it handled 10,870 criminal cases, 1,984 service cases and 53,846 miscellaneous cases. Out of the total crime cases terminated, 2,213 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 with consolidated cases received totaling to 27,581 while 24,682 laboratory specimens were examined and analyzed. Terminated cases totaled to 27,320 and 1,244 court appearance of NBI technical personnel.

With regard to clearance processing/issuance, 7,354,165 clearance applications were received by the NBI nationwide for various purposes. This is 4.6% higher than the 7,031,987 certificates issued in 2016.

In line with the present administration's effort to streamline government services and reduce cost, the blue-colored Multi-Purpose NBI Clearance with a fixed rate of only One Hundred Fifteen Pesos (P115.00) was launched on 02 October 2017.

Some Key Accomplishments:

1. The operations conducted by Task Force Against Illegal Drugs together with other operating units and the Regional Operations Service resulted in the seizure of more than 1,124.596 kilos of illegal drugs with estimated value of about 7.3 billion. The NBI also discovered and destructed two (2) marijuana plantation sites with a street value of 10M in Barangay Luccong, Tinglayan, Kalinga;
2. Intensified the investigation of cases on graft and corruption with the arrest and filing of criminal charges before the DOJ against past and incumbent officials of the government for violations of R.A. 6713 (Code of Ethical Standards), Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (R.A. 3019), Revised Penal Code and the Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A. 9184). Among those charged are senior officials and employees of the Ombudsman, National Labor Relations Commission, National Printing Office, Bureau of Immigration, Energy Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Corrections.
3. Series of operations were conducted through the NBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division that resulted to the arrest of 25 human traffickers and rescue of 61 individuals most of whom are minors;
4. Arrested a Computer Science Student of Isabela State University for Phishing, an act of illegally obtaining sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details in an electronic communication;
5. Arrested a female suspect for spreading radical Islamic extremist propaganda and recruitment of foreign fighters, thru the use of internet and social media to come to the Philippines for terrorist acts. She is the wife of Mohammad Jaafar Maguid a.k.a. Tokboy Abu Sharifa, the former leader of the Ansar Khalifa

Philippines, a group responsible in September 2016 Davao City night market bombing in cooperation with Maute Group as well as the failed attempt to bomb the US Embassy Manila last December 2016. Maguid was killed by the Police in January 2017 in Saranggani;

6. Arrested two (2) individuals in a joint operation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – NCR and seized various timbers or lumbers of narra, yakal, molave, bolong and other species with an estimated market value of P50M; and
7. Arrested nine (9) individuals in an entrapment operation in Manila for illegally possessing giant clams or taklobos with 30 kilograms each and being sold for P97,000,000 when arrested by NBI

National Prosecution Service (NPS)

The National Prosecution Service (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 2017, besides the NPS Prosecution Staff in the DOJ main office, the NPS has 14 regional offices, 81 provincial offices (i.e. with 83 sub-offices) and 144 city offices nationwide. In the same year, the NPS was manned by 2,252 prosecution officers (prosecutors and prosecution attorneys) and 1,793 administrative support staff.

As shown in Table 1, authorized prosecution officer positions was reduced from 3,524 in 2016 to 3,377 in 2017 pursuant to Sec. 12 of RA 10071, realigning the position items by transferring vacant excess plantilla of prosecutors to the cities within the province or to the province of which the cities used to be municipalities or to other cities within the province. For the support staff, the authorized number of positions significantly increased from 1,946 in 2016 to 2,553 in 2017, due to the creation of additional positions approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Many of these positions have yet to be filled by the NPS regional offices.

Table 1. NPS Staffing Statistics, 2010-2017

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prosecution Officers*								
Authorized Positions	2,410	2,411	2,412	2,416	3,484	3,510	3,524	3,377
Filled Positions	1,864	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	1,907	2,341	2,252
Vacant Positions	546	581	562	558	1,627	1,657	1,183	1,125
Vacancy Rate	23%	24%	23%	23%	47%	47%	34%	33%
Support Staff*								
Authorized Positions	1,945	1,945	1,944	1,945	1,946	1,946	1,946	2,553
Filled Positions	1,602	1,558	1,665	1,688	1,719	1,701	1,698	1,793
Vacant Positions	343	387	279	257	227	261	248	760
Vacancy Rate	18%	20%	14%	13%	12%	13%	13%	30%
Other Support Staff**								
LGU-provided	882	1,027	1,009	1,018	912	942	982	748
Other agencies	23	39	27	29	29	21	7	3
Other sources	6	3	3	3	9	2	7	7
Total	911	1,069	1,039	1,050	950	965	996	758

* Source: DOJ Personnel Division (2014 includes authorized additional prosecutors under RA 10071)

** Source: Quarterly Report of Operations, 2010-2016; and 2017 Yearend Inventory of Office Resources and Amenities from prosecution offices nationwide

The NPS handled 373,771 complaints for preliminary investigation (PI) and resolved 325,682 cases, which constitute the bulk of the workload of prosecution officers. Annual disposition rate progressively increased from 74.63% in 2010 to 87.13% by end of 2017.

On the average, one prosecutor handled 166 and resolved 145 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 179 in 2010 to 166 per prosecutor in 2017.

Table 2. NPS Preliminary Investigation Case Load and Disposition, 2010-2017

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Case Load								
Cases Handled	334,398	342,537	353,647	389,565	404,613	406,016	391,612	373,771
Filled Positions	1,864	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018	2,341	2,252
Average per Prosecutor	179	187	191	210	218	201	167	166
Disposition								
Resolved Cases	249,550	262,977	271,292	305,016	325,868	324,795	341,587	325,682
Filled Positions	1,908	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	1,907	2,341	2,252
Average per Prosecutor	131	144	147	164	175	161	146	145
Disposition Rate	74.63%	76.8%	76.7%	78.3%	80.54%	80.00%	87.23%	87.13%
Pending Cases	84,848	79,560	82,355	84,549	78,745	81,221	50,025	48,089

Source: Quarterly reports from prosecution offices nationwide

With regard to investigation aging, available data in Table 3 shows that there was a 5.5% reduction in nationwide backlog (complaints pending beyond 120 days—maximum reglementary period prescribed in the 2008 Revised Prosecutor’s Manual) from 49.8% in 2016 to 44.3% in 2017.

Table 3. Aging of Complaints Pending Resolution in the NPS, 2010-2017

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<u>Within the reglementary period</u>	40.0%	46.4%	48.5%	42.6%	44.8%	41.5%	50.2%	55.7%
60 days and below	24.1%	27.9%	26.6%	26.8%	27.8%	26.3%	34.1%	36.0%
More than 60 days up to 120 days	15.9%	18.5%	21.9%	15.8%	17.0%	15.2%	16.1%	19.7%
<u>Beyond the reglementary period</u>	60.0%	53.6%	51.4%	57.4%	55.2%	58.5%	49.8%	44.3%
More than 120 days up to 1 year	23.2%	20.3%	23.6%	24.2%	23.6%	21.2%	16.0%	13.0%
More than 1 year	36.8%	33.3%	27.8%	33.3%	31.6%	37.3%	33.8%	31.3%

Source: 2010-2015 Yearend inventory of pending complaints and 2016-2017 Quarterly Report of Operations from prosecution offices nationwide

Besides the above investigation workload, there were more than a million criminal cases in the first and second level trial courts attended to by prosecutors nationwide for 2017 based on Supreme Court data. On the average, a prosecutor handled around 453 court cases that year—the highest for the past several years. This figure does not include civil cases handled by prosecutors. Table 4 shows the number of criminal cases in the lower courts and average case load per prosecutor from 2010 to 2017. It is important to note that continuous trial has been fully implemented since 2017. Hence, this trial case load together with continuous trial substantially reduced the time of prosecutors for preliminary investigation work.

Table 4. Criminal Cases in Lower Courts, 2010-2017

Particulars	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Criminal Cases in Lower Courts*	705,569	706,406	726,195	754,658	796,545	849,452	956,955	1,019,383
Filled Positions	1,863	1,830	1,850	1,858	1,857	2,018	2,341	2,252
Average per Prosecutor	379	386	393	406	429	421	409	453
Prosecution Success Rate**	68.2%	65.3%	71.2%	68.3%	73.4%	71.9%	77.9%	72.16%

*Source: Supreme Court – Court Management Office

**Convictions as a percent of total convictions and acquittals, excluding other court dispositions

Based on reported statistics from NPS, the prosecution success rate decreased from 77.9% in 2016 to 72.16% in 2017. However, this is 3.9% higher than the 68.2% in 2010. Prosecution success rate is calculated using convictions as a percent of total convictions and acquittals. Dismissals, archivals and other court dispositions are not considered since the causes thereof are beyond the control of prosecutors (e.g. non-appearance of parties and witnesses and successful court mediation).

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 still inadequate funds regional/local operations, 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 management, resource management, and human resource 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.

The Special Projects Division of the Prosecution Staff implemented the NPS Case Decongestion Project with baseline study and a one-time decongestion in prosecution offices with the highest backlogs, as well as updating/reprinting of Prosecutors' Manual. Meanwhile, the Department also implemented the following institutional measures and for the NPS:

1. Creation of additional support staff positions for prosecution offices nationwide;
2. Developed the enhanced Prosecution Case Management System (PCMS);
3. Rationalized case reporting and monitoring system;
4. Construction of new buildings for NPS; and
5. Procurement of desktop and laptop computers for NPS offices nationwide.

Plans and Programs for 2018 onwards:

1. Sustained implementation of case decongestion project;
2. Implementation of PCMS as part of the National Justice Information System;
3. Development of competency framework and program for NPS;
4. Construction of new buildings for prosecution offices; and
5. ISO-Quality Management System implementation for case management and support processes.

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.

Starting 2017, the new Border Control Information System (BCIS), a new biometrics-based technology used in processing passengers entering and exiting the Philippines' international airports has been introduced and implemented in a bid to detect and stop the entry of undesirable aliens to the country. The BI processed 28,952,085 passenger entries and exits in all ports of the country. BI has also processed 1,034,570 immigration registration and transactions/documents, which is 37.2% higher than the 754,093 in 2016.

A total of 237,434 tourist visa transactions were facilitated, a decrease of 4.58% from the 248,818 transactions recorded in 2016. Among the received applications at the BI Main Office alone, there were 97,449 applications from Chinese nationals followed by South Koreans and Americans with 21,510 and 10,445 applications, respectively. 84,614 Alien Certificate of Registration Identity Cards were issued, which is 69% higher than the previous year. The biggest number of cards was issued to tourists with a total of 182,141 issued cards. 173 arrests were made involving foreign nationals. In pursuit of the Bureau to locate and apprehend fugitive foreign nationals, there were 277 warrant of deportation and mission orders issued.

The BI collected P4.7 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 21.9% higher than 2016 actual collection and surpassed the 2017 target collection by 20%.

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; and
7. Poor/lack of internet connectivity at the BI main office and terminals.

Major Plans and Core Programs for CY 2018:

1. Enhancement of Immigration regulations, processes and procedures;
2. Strengthen border control management;
3. Maintaining and strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination;
4. Pursue priority organizational reforms; and
5. Construction and improvement physical and infrastructure improvements.

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 17 regional offices, 309 district and 5 sub-district offices, two Regional Special and Appealed Cases Units, two satellite office, and one annex. As of December 2017, PAO has 2,005 public attorneys handling criminal and civil cases before the courts nationwide. About 70 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.

Despite of the overwhelming case load, the public attorneys ably represented indigents accused in court and managed to obtain 61,138 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 36,067 cases involving women and 24,153 cases involving children in conflict with the law (CICL). Out of this number of cases 20,449 and 8,003 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 2017 with 591 covered witnesses. Within the year, 161 witnesses were admitted to the program, the coverage of 147 witnesses were 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 2017, the total number of witnesses covered by the WPSBP increased to 605. In the same year, a conviction rate of 88.09% on cases with covered witnesses was obtained wherein out of 42 case decisions, 37 cases won.

WPSBP places due importance to witnesses/whistleblowers in corruption cases which have assumed national importance and have invited keen public interest. On top of the existing coverage of witnesses on cases involving the diversion of the Priority Development Assistance Fund or pork barrel of legislators, high profile plunder cases, the Mamasapano case, 60 witnesses in human trafficking cases, WPSBP also covered a whistleblower in the Department of Public Works and Highway government property scam in General Santos City perpetrated by a group of national government officials as well as private individuals, involving anomalous transactions in the construction of DPWH infrastructure projects which defrauded government in the amount of P8.7B. It also covered a witness in the fatal hazing of University of Santo Tomas law student Horacio Castillo III by members of the Aegis Juris fraternity.

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 2018, 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 testify 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 towards the creation of plantilla positions for security and administrative and regularly capacity development for security and administrative officers;
4. Acquisition of firearms/ammunitions, transportation and office equipment 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.

In the 2017 Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of the US State Department released on 27th of June 2017, 187 countries were assessed. The Philippines is among the 36 countries placed in Tier 1 and holds the distinction to be the only Southeast Asian country ranked alongside developed countries since last year. Being in Tier 1 means that the Government of the Philippines fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and that the government continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period.

While the Philippines remained in Tier 1 and fully meets the minimum standards, the US TIP Report observed that the government did not expand the availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims, particularly mental health care and services for male victims. Further, the government did not vigorously investigate and prosecute government officials allegedly involved in trafficking crimes or expand its pilot program to address the backlog of trafficking cases in the courts. Thus, the recommendations for the Philippines has increased from nine to ten action points that need to be addressed in the next reporting period.

The IACAT has, on record, a total of 53 convictions which resulted to the conviction of 48 traffickers from January to December 2017. Since 2005, the Philippines has reported a total of 327 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) convictions involving 353 trafficking offenders.

Major Challenges and Constraints:

1. Lack of good education programs for out-of-school youth;
2. Lack of manpower or personnel to support the full implementation of anti-trafficking programs and interventions;
3. Investment by LGUs on anti-trafficking interventions remains low;
4. Absence of a Knowledge Center and Lack of solutions-based research;
5. Lack of organization structure and plantilla position for IACAT Secretariat;
6. Need for more support to strengthen the operations of the anti-trafficking task forces and law enforcement agencies.

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.

As part of the GAD Plan of the Department, Department Circular No. 023 dated 30 March 2017 was issued as guidelines on the establishment of gender-sensitive and child friendly public assistance desks and interview/investigation rooms in DOJ prosecution offices. 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. For 2017, at least 33 desks and/or interview rooms were operational in regional/local prosecution offices.

Major Plans

1. Implementation of the Multi-Disciplinary Trainings 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 more 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;
4. Formulation of updated Comprehensive Program on Child Protection as framework and basis for localization; and
5. Localization of child protection programs.

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.

The year 2017 was a transitional period for the Office for Competition (OFC). Considering that RA 10667 had taken full effect only in August 2017, and in view of the technical or specialized nature of competition or antitrust, the OFC focused on key deliverables, including the development of enforcement rules/guidelines, reorganization, capacity building and other related initiatives in support of the OFC’s reinforcement mandate.

As proposed by the OFC, anti-cartel enforcement was included in the Agenda and 2018 Work Plan of the Working Group on Rule of Law and Law Enforcement (WG-ROLLE) under the 7th Philippines – United States Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (PH-USBSD). As a member of the WG-ROLLE, the OFC contributed to the discussions in the 7th PH-US BSD held on 30 November – 01 December 2017 in Washington, D.C., USA which led to the forging of joint partnership between OFC, US Department of Justice, US Department of State, and US Embassy for assistance in capacity building. Consultations with representatives from the United States Embassy, American Bar Association – Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI), NPS Special Projects Division were also undertaken in relation to the updating of the Advanced Training Module for Prosecutors and Prosecutors Manual to include a section on Competition. Furthermore, the OFC contributed to the annual observance of World Competition Day (WCD) which is held every 5th of December.

A number of consultative meetings with the PCC to thresh out emerging issues related to the enforcement of RA 10667 were undertaken resulting in the preparation of a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DOJ and PCC. The proposed MOA aims to clarify the delineation of the scope of investigative functions of both agencies. The OFC also participated in various local and international trainings hosted by the PCC.

At present, the OFC has no prosecutors of its own, thus, pending reorganization, a task force composed of prosecutors from the NPS may be tapped to handle competition cases as an interim measure. Capacity building remains a priority for 2018, in view of the complexity of prosecuting competition cases, especially the ones that require economic evidence.

Strategic Direction and Key Action

To sustain the gains made and further strengthen its enforcement mandate, the OFC will focus on priority initiatives, as follows:

1. Investigation and prosecution of criminal violations committed prior to (to be prosecuted under Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended) and after the effectivity of RA 10667;
2. Finalization and issuance of Guidelines implementing the criminal provisions of RA 10667;
3. Modular capacity building to be undertaken in three (3) stages: (i) Module 1 (Basic) for regions/areas not covered in 2017; (ii) Module 2 (Advanced); and (iii) Training of Trainers;
4. Completion of proposed Reorganization Plan; and
5. Other deliverables in support of the OFC's enforcement mandate.

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 3,700 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 2017, OOC as National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC's) point of contact in the Philippines reported 52,694 online child pornography from DOJ OOC, 35 from Philippine National Police and 8 from National Bureau of Investigation.

Other Accomplishments

1. Approval of the National Cybercrime Strategy, which outlines the basic direction of Philippines' cybercrime policies in the next six (6) years (Memorandum of the Secretary of Justice dated 25 January 2017).;
2. Continuously conducted series of cybercrime trainings in 2017 to upskill the capacity of the investigators and lawyers in cybercrime investigation and prosecution; and
3. Notable OOC engagements in the following:
 - 3.1 Regional Cybercrime Conference 2017 dated 27-29 June 2017 in Cebu City, Philippines;
 - 3.2 International Workshop on Judicial Training Strategy on Cybercrime dated 12-14 December 2017 in Cebu City, Philippines;
 - 3.3 Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography – Philippines Round Table Discussion dated 05 February 2017 in Manila; and
 - 3.4 Council of Europe (COE) – Philippines (PH) Workshop for 24/7 cybercrime units dated 19-20 June 2017 in Tagaytay, Philippines.

Major Plans and Programs for CY 2018

1. Access to International Child Sex Exploitation Database;
2. National Computer Forensics Training Program (NCFTP);
3. Data Privacy and Protection;
4. Continuous training for law enforcement, prosecutors, public attorneys, and judges; and
5. Philippines as Capacity Building Hub for Southeast Asia Region.

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 2017, there were three hundred thirty-four (334) cases/incidents processed involving extra-legal 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 2018, the Task Force intends to have a key action plan on legislation. Starting in 2007, the executive department, under different administrations, has been creating ad hoc bodies similar to the IAC, in order to address the issue of human rights violations by government forces/agents, and more particularly, the seeming 'culture of impunity' human rights. Furthermore, a website will bring the government closer and more accessible to other stakeholders in criminal justice and human rights.

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. 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.

In 2017, BuCor maintained in its custody an average daily inmate population of 42,172 prisoners wherein 38,990 are males and 3,182 are females, distributed in its seven (7) operating prisons and penal farms (OPPFs) throughout the country. Out of this number, a total of 5,674 were admitted at the Assessment, Rehabilitation, Program Development and Monitoring Division of NBP, of which 3.8% were re-offenders and the rest were first-time inmates in the BuCor.

The over-all congestion rate in BuCor prison facilities increased from 115% in 2016 to 119% based on international parameters. The increase in congestion was due to influx on the number of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) committed to BuCor coming from Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and local jails. This is attributed more cases resolved by the different courts.

From January to December 2017, a total of 4,631 inmate carpentas were forwarded to the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) for review and evaluation. There were 5,418 released inmates, a 5.57% 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 sixteen (16) for 2017, 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 15,749 various prohibited contrabands for the year 2017.

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 2017 with daily average inmate participation of at least 41,632 (89.65%). The enrollees in formal and non-formal BuCor Education Program are at 6,539 or 16% of the inmate population. Religious services, counseling sessions and other moral/spiritual formation activities also benefited at least 31,170 inmates.

For its medical, dental and other health care services, a total of 127,500 inmates were able to be provided various types of examinations to determine the presence of gross physical defects and various types of ailments.

In 2017, at least 18,545 inmates or 45% 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 25,184 or 60% of total inmate population actively participated in sports, recreation and wellness programs.

Challenges and Constraints

1. Congestion due to lack of facilities to house new committals with PDL population growth at an average of 2-3% since 2011 due to influx of new offenders from different jails of the country;
2. Wide gap of guard to inmate ratio at 1:67 computed on 3 shifts per day basis;
3. Lack of funds for intelligence operations and other security equipment;
4. Corrupt practices that led to security lapses and criminal activities;
5. Lack of rehabilitation facility, equipment and rehabilitation officers to aid in the assessment and monitor progress of inmates participating in rehabilitation programs;

6. No Rehabilitation Program Information System to record and monitor/track PDLs rehabilitation activities;

Key Action Plans for 2018

1. Facilitate the full implementation of RA 10575 or the BuCor Modernization Act of 2013;
2. Continuous implementation of the Drug-Free Workplace Policy to eradicate and prevent drug trade in the prison community;
3. Decongestion and Segregation Program thru construction of additional dormitories in five (5) OPPFs;
4. Full implementation of GCTA Law (RA 10592) granting more allowances to PDL with good behavior;
5. Improve and develop standardized prison policies and processes thru certification of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System for BuCor Core and Support processes;
6. Revision of BuCor Operations Manual aligned with the BuCor Modernization Law; and
7. Implementation/roll out of the enhanced Inmate Management Information System as part of the National Justice 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 2017, BPP posted 94.38% disposition rate for cases involving parole and recommendation for Executive Clemency. Out of 7,262 total carpetas received, 6,854 cases were submitted for Board action.

BPP received and handled a total of 1,567 Summary Reports in 2017. Out of this number, 1,475 were issued certificates of final release and discharge, 49 cases were either denied or deferred. A total of 327 communications were acknowledged, filed or verified, achieving 94.13% disposition rate. There were likewise 438 out of 458 infraction reports and 320 out of 324 requests for transfer of residence 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 2017, BPP released 13,128 replies to petitions and attended to 5,573 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 2017, PPA handled a total of 21,166 probation, parole and executive clemency investigation cases from January to December 2017, of which 97.93% were completed/submitted to courts and/or the Board of Pardons and Parole. Likewise, 99.21% of recommendations were sustained by courts. PPA also supervised and/or monitored 43,194 probationers, parolees and pardonees. Out of these, 97.57% were parole/probation compliant, that are worthy of community-based corrections, while 2.43% of clients were recommended for revocation and arrest, or recommitment due to violation of the terms and conditions of their probation and parole. Nonetheless, 100% of supervision recommendations submitted by the Probation Officers supervising the clients were sustained by the courts of law and the BPP.

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 2,072 clients involved in mediation; 20,237 in conferencing; 2,623 in circle of support and 929 other indigenous processes.

Clients are also mobilized to participate in or render community services wherein 24,520 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 97.16%. 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, 92.74% 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 7,642 all over the country. There are also 544,385 rehabilitation and intervention services rendered to clients in 2017, out of this number 97.16% have participated in the rehabilitation and intervention services.

Other Accomplishments

1. Development of the Single Carpeta System as part of the National Justice Information System.
2. Formulated, enhanced and published its Agency Freedom of Information Manual and FOI People's Manual. PPA was able to enroll in the electronic FOI Portal which allows the public to request information online.
3. Halfway House and Livelihood Training Center established in Guimaras.
4. Philippines-Japan Halfway House.
5. Strengthened Partnership with Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPAs) Association and Mobilization of VPAs.

Challenges and Constraints

1. Lack or insufficiency of funds for the rehabilitation services
2. Impact assessment of DOJ-PPA rehabilitation program
3. Heavy caseload – personnel ratio
4. Continuing capacity building of VPAs

For 2018 Strategic Direction and Key Action Plans:

1. Effective and efficient administration of probation and parole systems;
2. Good governance;
3. Pursue reforms in the corrections system;
4. Increase access to justice by the poor, vulnerable, victims of injustice, and persons with special needs; and,
5. Address fragmentation of the justice system through sector coordination and data sharing and harmonization.

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.

For CY 2017, the Board has created its Citizens Charter to serve as guidelines for claimants in filing their application under RA No. 7309. This is presently posted at the Frontline Service area. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the BOC, DOJ, and the Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) was also implemented. The PPA is currently assisting the BOC in accepting applications under RA No. 7309. The Board started coordinating with the Management Information Systems Division (MISD) to continue the creation of its database system. Per MISD, the program will be finished by the first quarter of 2018.

From January to December 2017, the Board granted 2,124 claims with a total payout amounting to ₱21,210,000.00. Likewise, conducted information dissemination campaign/caravan in the following cities: Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Las Piñas, and Makati; in provinces such as: Cavite, Palawan, Rizal, Bohol, Iloilo, and the CARAGA Region. A total of 2,749 participants from various government agencies such as PNP, DSWD, DILG, PPA and other NGO's attended the event. They also conducted a writeshop and drafted a proposed bill amending the provisions of RA No. 7309. Moreover, the BOC conducted spot check/audit in the offices of the Regional Prosecutor – Region III (San Fernando, Pampanga) and Regional Prosecutor – Region IV (San Pablo City, Laguna). The said activities are part of the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) of the Department to fully utilize the budget allocated to the BOC.

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 of 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 2017, 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, 481 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 20,314 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 47 replies or legal advice at the instance of private parties and minor government officials and employees and prepared 3,189 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 2017, OGCC acted on all (100%) requests for legal opinion and contract review, 783 of which were released reviews, 85.57% over all compliance rate or a total of 670, were released within the 28-day period from receipt to release.

For its litigation function, OGCC handled a total of 5,636 cases for the year 2017, 304 cases were terminated by virtue of Entry of Judgment as issued by the Supreme Court and 229 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; and
2. Continuing healthier relationship with GOCCs, as well as the lawyers in the legal divisions of the GOCCs, which resulted in an increased trust and confidence with the OGCC and in the referral of their cases.

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 2017, a total of 48,849 clients benefited from this service consisting of inquest assistance, legal advice/counseling and documentation.

For the period January to December 2017, PAO was able to assist a total of 11,616,916 indigent clients and handled a total of 906,251 cases nationwide. Based on the above-mentioned figures, each PAO lawyer was able to assist an average of 5,794 clients and handled an average of 458 cases.

At the prosecutor's level, PAO was able to terminate 35,126 out of 64,033 handled cases. In addition, 11,735 out of the 41,004 civil cases 5,427 out of the 13,807 administrative cases, and 27,905 out of 44,630 labor cases were disposed/terminated in 2017.

PAO renders mediation and conciliation services as part of its quasi-judicial function. In 2017, it handled a total of 337,831 disputes and resolved a total of 320,939 thereof. Likewise, a total of 199,500 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 7,396 beneficiaries. These consists 1,485 legal, 1,892 medical, 1,337 optical, and 391 dental assistance. PAO has also facilitated the release of 2,291 inmates, through the Program.

Other Significant Accomplishments

The PAO's free legal service is not only for the accused/respondent but extends to all qualified victims of injustice. Noteworthy is the PAO's legal assistance to the families of Kian Loyd Delos Santos, Carl Angelo Arnaiz, Reynaldo "Kulot" De Guzman, and Michael Angelo Remecio who were killed in police operations. With the help of the PAO Forensic Team, headed by Atty. Erwin P. Erfe, M.D., Director of the PAO Forensic Laboratory, the PAO was able to build up and strengthen its cases against the police officers who are responsible for the senseless killings.

The PAO once again enriched Philippine jurisprudence through the case of *Estipona v. Hon Lobrigo and People*, G.R. No. 226679, 15 August 2017, the PAO representing the petitioner therein, wherein the Supreme Court declared Section 23 of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which prohibits plea bargaining for all drug offenses, as unconstitutional for being contrary to the Supreme Court's rule making authority as stated in Section 5(5), Article VIII the 1987 Constitution.

Continuing Plans and Programs

1. Establishment and maintenance of closed-circuit television in all Regional and District offices of PAO;
2. Implement compensation scheme, financial incentives and retirement benefits of the Public Attorney's;
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 2017 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 2017, the targeted income was only P6.38 billion while the actual income generated was P8.56 billion, or 34% higher than said target.

The agency performance measure on the number of registration transactions resulting to issuance of title acted upon is 857,944 or 125.06% 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 5,106,827 or 148.02% of its 3,450,000 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 99% of LRA’s transactions are now using their respective IT facilities for processing of transactions. Under the LTCP, 24.5 million titles were converted into digital format or 99% of conversion activities were achieved.

Relative to the implementation of the LCTP, 36 RDs were constructed and 127 were rehabilitated and/or renovated nationwide including LRA Central Office.

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 166 cases involving almost 90 spurious/fraudulently issued Certificates of Title.

Other Significant Accomplishments

The LRA thru the Registries of Deeds, registered a total number of 17,754 NEW EP/CLOA titles containing an area of 22,640.4446 hectares, out of 17,778 EP/CLOA titles with an area of 22,628.3707 in hectares transmitted by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to various LRA Registries of Deeds.

While 10,297 titles were registered as Collective CLOAs with equivalent area of 13,795.7926 in hectares also transmitted by the Department of Agrarian to various LRA Registries of Deeds.

Plans for 2018

1. Automated Client Entry – Certified True Copy which aims to streamline the existing computerized system on the issuance of certified true copy of an eTitle;
2. Agency will give priority to the repairs and maintenance of various offices within the Central Office and the Registries of Deeds as may be requested;
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.

For CY 2017, PCGG has remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) the total amount of P376,925,514.41 from the following income, proceeds or payment:

Particulars	Amount
Remittances of rental and interest income of various PCGG/IRC Properties	8,150,548
5% Contingency Fund of the recovered Marcos Swiss deposits at PNB (\$5,000,0000.00 @ P50.397)	251,985,000
SMC Dividends	116,072,623.80
Globe rental	717,342.61

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 P234,839,335.81.

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.

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 2017, 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. The OADR also facilitated the DBM approval of OADR Organizational Structure and Staffing and Classification Action (NOSCA). However, as of this date, the said plantilla positions remain vacant.

In 2017, OADR facilitated 19 applications for accreditation of individual ADR practitioner. Also, 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 and spearheaded the crafting of amendatory provisions to R.A. No. 9285 particularly on the chapter of Mediation. Further, conducted 3rd to 8th TWG meetings on the development and finalization of amendatory provisions on Chapter of Arbitration under R.A. No. 9285. It oversees the evaluation of the Pilot implementation of the Rules on Mediation in the National Prosecution Service of the Department of Justice.

The plans of programs of the OADR for 2018 are centered in addressing the challenges by the Office such as improving access of the public to ADR services, improving skills on ADR, educating on ADR and institutionalizing ADR practices in the government.

DOJ Action Center (DOJAC)

DOJAC 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 2017, DOJAC at DOJ central office extended various legal assistance/services to a total of 11,883 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 956 Senior Citizens and 66 Persons with disabilities in 2017. Clients with gender-related concerns were also provided legal assistance.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Development and Policy Agenda

The Department has formulated and adopted its Development Plan for 2017 to 2022 consistent with the Philippine Development Plan and National Security Policy for the said period. Part of this is legislative/policy agenda relating to rationalizing criminal laws and procedures. Accomplishments in 2017 are as follows:

1. Spearheaded the formulation of DOJ-DILG Uniform Manual on Time Allowances and Service of Sentence, providing for harmonized/standard procedures on calculation of good conduct time allowance for inmates/persons deprived of liberty under RA No. 10592 for the national prisons and local jails;
2. Issued the guidelines on plea bargaining agreement on cases involving the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act to raise the effectiveness of criminal prosecution on illegal drugs as among the priorities of the current Administration; and
3. Commenced implementation of the Philippine Crime Index project with mapping and classification of all offenses under national laws with penal provisions, useful for codification, statistics, information systems and research.

Plans for 2018:

1. Roll out of Uniform Manual on Time Allowances and Service of Sentence;
2. Issuance of new Bail Bond Guide for prosecutors;
3. Study and support on the criminal investigation system/bill;
4. Completion of the Philippine Index of Crimes;
5. Development of Inter-Agency Anti-Illegal Drugs Enforcement Manual;
6. Policies and measures in compliance with the Data Privacy Act; and
7. Rationalization and documentation of systems and procedures.

National Justice Information System (NJIS)

Development of the NJIS is an ongoing project which commenced in 2012, as ICT tool for efficient management and exchange of vital information among agencies in the justice system. Accomplishments as of 2017 are as follows:

1. Developed the new enhanced version of Prosecution Case Management System (PCMS) for the DOJ National Prosecution Service;
2. Advanced stages of Single Carpeta System development (i.e. inmate information management systems and exchange portal for corrections agencies—BJMP, BUCOR, BPP, PPA); and
3. Finalized the architecture of and commenced the procurement for development of Law Enforcement Case Management System (i.e. data exchange portal for criminal cases in law enforcement agencies—PNP, NBI, DOJ, BI, PDEA, DDB).

Plans for 2018:

1. Initial roll out of PCMS in DOJ and NCR offices;
2. Roll out of Single Carpeta System starting with NCR jails/offices/stations; and
3. Development of the Law Enforcement Case Management System (e.g. data exchange portal for law enforcement agencies on criminal cases/records).