



Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Katarungan
Tanggapan ng Manananggol Pambayan
(PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE)

DOJ Agencies Building, NIA Rd. cor East Ave. 1104 Diliman, Quezon City
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**PAO-ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
CY 2010**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

☆ **Clients Assisted and Cases Handled:**

▪ Total No. of Clients Assisted	4,802,494
▪ Total No. of Cases Handled	632,524
▪ Average No. of Clients Assisted by Each Lawyer	3,420
▪ Average No. of Cases Handled by Each Lawyer	452

☆ **Total No. of Winning Appealed Criminal Cases** **154**

▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Perpetua	81
▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Temporal	73

☆ **Total No. of Winning Appealed Civil and Special Cases** **175**

☆ **PAO-Central Office Legal & Medical Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program**

▪ Total No. of Program Beneficiaries	9,287
▪ No. of Beneficiaries for Legal Assistance	2,467
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Medical Assistance	4,148
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Dental Assistance	480
▪ No. of Reading Glasses Distributed	179
▪ Total No. of Inmates Released	2,013

☆ **Acquittals and Other Favorable Dispositions** **148,467**

Accused benefited from:

A. Acquittal	12,562
B. Demurrer to evidence granted	1,562
C. Case Provisionally Dismissed	40,029
D. Case Permanently Dismissed	31,151
E. Motion to Quash granted	1,142
F. Released on Bail	23,439
G. Motion for Released on Recognizance granted	9,116
H. Released in accordance with Art.29, RPC	7,483
I. Granted with Probation	4,952
J. Released on other Grounds	17,031

☆ **Outreach Activities**

1. Inquest Investigation & Custodial Interrogation	
• Total No. of Clients Assisted	93,749
2. Nationwide Lawyers' Jail Visitation	

• No. of Prisoners Interviewed	201,220
• No. of Prisoners Provided With Assistance	220,013

★ **Legal/Inquest Proceedings Assistance**

On their scheduled duties, the public attorneys and staff of the PAO-Central Office have alternately been providing legal and inquest proceedings assistance even during night time, weekends and holidays since October 2009. For this purpose, the PAO hotline, 929-9436, has been opened to the public 24/7.

In September 2010, the coverage of this program was widened for the benefit of the people that are being served by the regional and district offices of the PAO nationwide. Since then the said offices have been rendering *legal assistance* (e.g. legal advice, attending to the legal needs of suspects, persons detained or under custodial investigation in the police stations within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned PAO regional/district offices) *up to 10:00 p.m. every day* (including weekends and holidays) but the assigned PAO inquest public attorneys and staff therein remain *on call* for the rest of their respective scheduled duties ready to render legal assistance in inquest proceedings and custodial investigations.

• Clients served	6,534
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★ **Trainings and Seminars Attended** **111**

▪ Training Participants	Lawyers	1,149
	Support Personnel	154

★ **Case Load**

Out of **152,117** terminated criminal cases, there were **112,133** or about **74%** favorable dispositions obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

▪ Total number of cases involving Women Clients	74,154
Total number of cases terminated	27,705
Terminated Cases favorable to Women	17,602
	(63.53%)
▪ Total number of cases involving Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)	14,588
Total number of cases terminated	3,405
Terminated Cases favorable to CICL	2,609
	(76.62%)

★ Total No. of Communications/Response to Requests signed by the Chief Public Attorney **43,498**

★ Total number of clients assisted by the PAO-National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Sub-Station located at Banawe, Quezon City **6,530**

★ Total number of research works and legal queries from the public that were either directly addressed or otherwise referred to the PAO **889**

★ The Chief Public Attorney received the following *prestigious awards*, to wit:

1. *Order of Lapu-Lapu Award* given by the Bureau of Immigration on June 28, 2010 at the Bureau of Immigration Lobby, Main Building, Intramuros, Manila;
2. *Gawad Francisco Balagtas* given by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino on April 13, 2010 at the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, Intramuros, Manila;
3. *Up Close and Personal with Marissa del Mar 2nd Impact Awards (Awardee for Legal Service)* given by Millicent Productions on March 22, 2010 at Hotel Intercontinental Manila;

★ The Chief Public Attorney *attended* the following *local trainings and seminars* and/or served as *resource person*, thereto:

1. *Lecturer*, Seminar-Workshop on Combating Human Trafficking in the Philippines, Traders Hotel, Pasay City, November 2, 2010; Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu City, October 28, 2010;
2. *Lecturer*, 12th National Convention-Seminar of the Metropolitan and City Judges Association of the Philippines (METCJAP), September 22, 2010, Manila Hotel;
3. *Resource Person*, Foreign Service Officers' Cadetship Course (FSOCC) Batch XVII – Seminar on Selected Philippine Laws on the topic “Introduction to Philippine Criminal Laws,” July 16, 2010, Foreign Service Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City;
4. *Speaker*, International Women's Month Celebration of the Philippine National Police-Calabarzon, March 29, 2010, Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna;
5. *Speaker*, International Women's Month Celebration, March 8, 2010, National Labor Relations (NLRC), Banawe, Quezon City;
6. *Speaker*, Laws Essential to Junior Officers in their Role as the New Breed of Leaders-Protectors of Society and Republic Act No. 9745 (Anti-Torture Law), February 1, 2010, Philippine Military Academy, Baguio City.

★ The Chief Public Attorney and/or the Office of the Chief Public Attorney *handled* the following major *cases* and/or *rendered legal assistance* to the following individuals, to wit:

1. Legal assistance to Mr. Lauro Vizconde, now a jobless senior citizen, in filing a Motion for Reconsideration at the Supreme Court on December 29, 2010 in connection with the Vizconde massacre case;
2. Legal assistance to and release of *SPO2 Gregorio Mendoza*, who was accused of the crime of Serious Disobedience before the Metropolitan Trial Court-Branch 11, in Manila. He was indicted for the said crime due to his alleged act of penetrating the cordoned area set-up by the Manila Police District, during the Manila hostage crisis at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, on August 23, 2010;
3. The cases of the *relatives of the victims of the M/V Princess of the Stars* maritime tragedy (pursuant to Department Order No. 439, Series of 2008). As of December 7, 2010, **71** civil cases have already been filed against the owners and management of the Sulpicio Lines, Inc. (SLI) at RTC-Branch 51, Manila and as of December 7, 2010, **64** civil cases have already been filed against them at RTC-Branch 10, Cebu City. Administrative and criminal cases have also been filed against the SLI at the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Department of Justice. The criminal case for Reckless Imprudence is pending at RTC-Branch 5, Manila.

In connection thereto, exhumation and retrieval operations were also conducted by the PAO Forensic Team as part of the identification process on the human remains of the victims of the sinking of the *M/V Princess of the Stars*, at the PAO Forensic Laboratory. Thirty-eight (**38**) unidentified remains of said victims buried by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), MARINA, and SLI were exhumed by the

PAO Forensic Team from the Carreta Cemetery in Cebu City on April 9 and 10, 2010, pursuant to an Order of Exhumation issued by Hon. Judge Soliver C. Peras of RTC-Branch 10, Cebu City. Another Order was issued by Judge Peras, directing the turn-over of five (5) bags of human remains to the PAO Forensic Laboratory by the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Cebu City on May 18 and 19, 2010. The human remains of another forty-three (43) victims were retrieved in May 2010 by the PAO Forensic Team, in cooperation with divers from the Philippine Coast Guard and Royal Jessan Petromin Resources, Inc. from the wrecked M/V Princess of the Stars, 70 feet below sea level, off the coast of San Fernando, Sibuyan Island in the province of Romblon. The retrieval was authorized by Department Order No. 250, dated 16 April 2010, issued by Hon. Alberto C. Agra, Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice.

The PAO Forensic Team went back to Romblon in June, August, October and November of 2010. This time, a total of 46 human remains were retrieved. On August 19, 2010, one human remains, wrongly identified and buried at the Cainta cemetery was exhumed by the team and is now undergoing biological profiling and identification at the PAO Forensic Laboratory.

Thus, a total of 133 human remains had already been exhumed and retrieved by the PAO Forensic Team. Twelve (12) of the said exhumed/retrieved human remains had been presumptively identified; six (6) of which had been positively identified and turned-over to their respective families/relatives; and

4. Legal assistance to the Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel holding the ranks of PO1 to PO3, who were involved in the EDSA-NIA Shoot-Out (pursuant to Department Order No. 106, Series of 2009). The said case was the subject of a Petition for Prohibition before the Court of Appeals, which granted the said petition filed by the PAO on behalf of the PNP personnel involved. The aforementioned petition assailed the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Resolutions dated February 23, 2009 and March 30, 2009, respectively placing petitioner-clients of the PAO under preventive suspension and denying their motion for reconsideration.

On appeal before the Supreme Court, the NAPOLCOM assailed the Decision of the Court of Appeals in granting the Petition for Prohibition of PNP personnel involved. The Supreme Court dismissed the petition filed by the NAPOLCOM for failure to show any reversible error on the part of the Court of Appeals.

☆ Library Services

Several legal books and reference materials were distributed to all Regional and District Offices amounting to the aggregate amount of Php 613,526.00. On the other hand, a total amount of Php 391,327.00 was allotted to *Lex Libris* Subscription for the Central Office to facilitate research work.

☆ PAO Equipment

For the year 2010, the PAO has purchased and distributed the following office equipment, to wit:

* Airconditioner	-	51 units
*Canon Lide 110 Scanner	-	1 unit
* Exhaust fan	-	1 unit

* Computer Monitors	-	15 units
* Computer Printers	-	15 units
* Computer Machine (with monitor & printer)	-	121 units
* Laptop Computer	-	1 unit
* Copier	-	1 unit
* Fax Machines	-	3 units
* Filing Cabinets (4 drawers)	-	116 units
* Filing Cabinets (2 drawers)	-	3 units
* Bookshelf	-	63 pcs
* Bench	-	2 pcs
* Whiteboard	-	3 pcs
*Office Chairs		
Executive Chairs	-	58 units
Clerical	-	5 units
Visitor	-	11 units
Swivel	-	116 units
Monobloc	-	256 pcs
Computer Chair	-	10 units
* Office Tables		
Executive	-	44 pcs
Clerical	-	3 pcs
Computer	-	9 pcs
Typing	-	3 pcs