



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

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PAO-ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

✚ The approval and signing of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9406 (PAO Law) on **July 14, 2008**, following its signing into law by H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on March 23, 2007 and its subsequent effectivity on April 15, 2007. The PAO Law created the agency as an independent and autonomous office but attached to the DOJ for purposes of policy and program coordination.

✚ Clients Assisted and Cases Handled:

▪ Total No. of Clients Assisted	5,068,420
▪ Total No. of Cases Handled	756,486
▪ Average No. of Clients Assisted by Each Lawyer	4,836
▪ Average No. of Cases Handled by Each Lawyer	722

✚ Total No. of Winning Appealed Criminal Cases 90¹

▪ Acquittals from Death Penalty	4
▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Perpetua	22
▪ Acquittals from Reclusion Temporal	57
▪ Modification from Death Penalty to Reclusion Perpetua	4
▪ Modification from Death Penalty to Reclusion Temporal	3

✚ Total No. of Winning Appealed Civil and Special Cases 162²

✚ Nationwide Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program

▪ Total No. of Program Beneficiaries	481,141 ³
▪ No. of Beneficiaries for Legal Assistance	473,198
▪ No. of Beneficiaries of Medical/Dental Assistance	5,252
▪ No. of Reading Glasses Distributed	1,342
▪ Total No. of Inmates Released	1,349 ⁴

✚ Trainings and Seminars Attended 172

▪ Training Participants	Lawyers	925
	Support Personnel	104

¹ As of November 2008





² Ibid.

³ Reports on inmates released assisted by the Regional and District Offices are not yet available

⁴ Ibid.

Case Load

Out of **170,249** terminated cases, there were **127,094** or about **75%** favorable dispositions obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients in criminal cases alone.

▪ Total number of Women Clients Assisted	90,168
▪ Total number of cases terminated	35,070
▪ Terminated Cases favorable to Women	21,150
▪ Total number of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) Assisted	19,873
▪ Total number of cases terminated	6,091
▪ Terminated Cases favorable to CICL	4,050
 Total No. of Communications/Response to Requests Signed by the Chief Public Attorney	32,126
 Total number of clients assisted by the PAO-National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Sub-Station located at Banawe, Quezon City	5,265
 Total number of research works and legal opinions for queries from the public that were either directly addressed or otherwise referred to the PAO	512
 Total number of administrative complaints received:	113
▪ Resolved and terminated:	101

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

1. **Award of Recognition** given by ABS-CBN's public service program, "Exklusibong Explosibong Expose (XXX)" on December 22, 2008;
2. **Outstanding Public Servant of the Year (2008) Award** jointly given by the United Filipino Seafarers (UFS) and Tinig ng Marino Maritime Newspaper on December 12, 2008 at the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Headquarters, South Harbor, Manila;
3. **Huwarang Pilipino Hall of Fame Award** from the Huwarang Pilipino Foundation, Inc., DZRB, Philippine Broadcasting Service, and NBN Channel 4 on November 25, 2008 at the Occupational Safety & Health Center;
4. **Gawad Sagisag Quezon** jointly given by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Bulacan Chapter, and the Quezon City Academy on August 31, 2008 at the Patricia L. Monzon Studio, National Broadcasting Network, Diliman, Quezon City;
5. **Special Award for Community Service for the Year 2008** given by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Commissioned Officers Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, on August 28, 2008; and

6. **Making A Difference for Women Award** given by the **Soroptimist International** on March 24, 2008 at Crown Royale Hotel, Capitol Drive, Balanga, Bataan

 **Notable Cases Personally Handled and Legal Assistance Personally Rendered by the Chief Public Attorney**


1) The cases of the victims of the *M/V Princess of the Stars* maritime tragedy. Forty (40) civil cases have already been filed against the owners and management of the Sulpicio Lines, Inc. (SLI) in Manila and thirty-four (34) in Cebu. Administrative and criminal cases have also been filed against the said respondents at the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) ;

2) Legal assistance to 72-year-old Ms. Elena dela Paz, aide for 45 years of the late Philippine film icon, Ms. Nida Blanca. As per DOJ Resolution dated November 11, 2008, signed by the Honorable Secretary of Justice Raul M. Gonzalez, Ms. Dela Paz was dropped as respondent in I. S. No. 2002-619, and the handling prosecutor was directed to cause her deletion from the Amended Information;

3) Hearings of 130 MILF suspected beheaders of ten (10) marines in Basilan;

4) Release by Petition for Habeas Corpus of six (6) babies detained at the Chinese General Hospital from unpaid hospital bills; and

5) Release of Norberto Manero, Jr.

 **Legal Books and reference materials** were distributed to Regional and District Offices amounting to the aggregate amount of Php 1,163,212.00. On the other hand, a total amount of Php209,664.00 was allotted to Lex Libris Subscription for the Central Office as well as to Regional Offices to facilitate research work.

 **PAO Equipment**

PAO purchased the following office equipment in 2008:

▪ Filing Cabinet	-	154 units
▪ Fax Machine	-	23 units
▪ Punching/Binding Machine	-	1 unit
▪ Pistol	-	5 units
▪ Computer Table	-	3 units
▪ Computer Chair	-	1 unit
▪ Senior Executive Chair	-	2 units
▪ Computer Printer	-	26 units
▪ Computer Monitor	-	5 units
▪ Bundy Clock	-	2 units
▪ Copier	-	3 units
▪ Aircon	-	8 units
▪ Safety Vault	-	1 unit
▪ Clerical Desk	-	1 unit
▪ Refrigerator	-	1 unit
▪ Computer Set	-	127 units