



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

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ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE YEAR 2013

Executive Summary

A. Clients Assisted and Cases Handled:

• Total number of clients assisted	7,126,565
• Total number of cases handled	746,161
• Average no. of clients assisted by each lawyer	4,748
• Average no. of cases handled by each lawyer	497

B. Major Final Output: Free Legal Services to Indigent Clients and Other Qualified Persons

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TARGETS	2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
PI Set 1:		
*Number of cases under management.	745,980	746,161
*Percentage of cases with favorable judgment.	64.5%	65.99%
*Percentage of requests for legal assistance/representation acted upon within three working days from the date of request.	92%	100%
*Percentage of hearings for which postponement is sought by the PAO legal representative.	1%	0.04%
PI Set 2:		
*Number of clients served (non-judicial).	4,631,097	4,648,422
*Number of legal advisories / counseling provided.	1,731,554	1,731,982
	88%	99.84%
*Percentage of clients who rated the legal services of PAO as satisfactory or better.	96%	100%
*Percentage of requests for assistance that are acted upon within two hours.		

C. Total number of winning appealed criminal cases

(For Court of Appeals and Supreme Court only)	171
• Acquittals from reclusion temporal	82
• Acquittals from reclusion perpetua	89

D. Total number of winning appealed civil & special cases

(For Court of Appeals and Supreme Court only)	262
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E. Acquittals and other favorable dispositions

(RTC & MCTC METC)	154,086
Number of accused:	
A. Acquitted	11,659
B. Dismissed with prejudice	37,392
C. Granted motion to quash	2,805
D. Granted demurrer to evidence	2,990
E. Provisionally dismissed	39,992
F. Convicted to lesser offense	39,829
G. Granted probation	3,634

H.	Won		656
I.	Granted lesser award		2,652
J.	Dismissed based on compromised agreement		4,226
K.	Criminal Cases for Preliminary Investigation:		
	K.1. Case filed in court (Complainant)		3,653
	K.2. Dismissed (Respondent)		2,964
L.	Pre-trial releases and other favorable dispositions:		
	L.1. Released on bail (Non-bailable offense)		325
	L.2. Released on recognizance		453
	L.3. Diversion proceedings / Intervention		378
	L.4. Suspended sentence		200
	L.5. Maximum imposable penalty served		278
F.	Special Legal Services		
	(Pursuant to Sec. 14-A of R.A. 9406 and MOAs)		20,644
G.	Rendition of Quasi-Judicial Services		449,693
	Mediation and Conciliation		449,611
	Investigation (R.A. 9745 or Anti-Torture Law)		82
H.	Outreach Activities		
1.	Inquest Investigation & Custodial Interrogation		
	• Total number of clients assisted		137,686
2.	Barangay Legal Outreach Activities		
	• Total number of beneficiaries		148,215
I.	Nationwide monthly jail visitation of district offices		
	No. of detainees / inmates:		
A.	Interviewed and assisted		252,043
B.	Provided legal representation in court		244,317
C.	Acquitted:		
	C.1. After trial		4,733
	C.2. On appeal		690
D.	Released on:		
	D.1. Pardon / Executive Clemency / Probation		2,346
	D.2. Motion to Dismiss / Motion to Quash		4,230
	D.3. Inquest Assistance / Representation		2,533
	D.4. Bail / Recognizance		9,735
	D.5. After serving the possible maximum prison term		1,214
J.	PAO-Central Office Legal & Medical Jail Visitation and Decongestion Program		
	• Total number of program beneficiaries		11,216
	• Number of beneficiaries of Legal Assistance		1,593
	• Number of beneficiaries of Medical Assistance		3,193
	• Number of beneficiaries of Dental Assistance		660
	• Number of beneficiaries of Optical Assistance		957
	• Total number of inmates released		4,813*
	(*From various jails in Metro Manila visited by the PAO-Central Office and followed up by the field offices.)		
K.	Legal/Inquest Proceedings Assistance		
	On their scheduled duties, the public attorneys and staff of the PAO-Central Office have been alternately providing legal and inquest proceedings assistance even during night time, weekends and holidays since October 2009. For this purpose, the PAO hotline, 929-9436 (local 106 or 107 during office hours and local 159 after office hours) is open 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 <i>legal assistance</i> (e.g. legal advice, attending to the legal needs of suspects in the police stations within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned PAO regional/district offices) <i>up to 10:00 p.m. everyday</i> (including weekends and Holidays) but the assigned PAO inquest public attorneys and staff therein remain <i>on call</i> after 10:00 p.m. during their respective scheduled duties whenever there is an inquest in the said police stations.		
	• Clients served		26,841
L.	Trainings and seminars attended		100
	• Training participants		
		<i>Lawyers</i>	1,498
		<i>Support Personnel</i>	318

M. Case load

Out of **206,127 terminated criminal cases**, there were **152,452** or about **73.96% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

● Total number of criminal cases handled	416,568
● Total number of cases terminated	206,127
● Terminated cases favorable to clients	152,452
● Total percentage of winning criminal cases	73.96%

Out of **27,391 terminated civil cases**, there were **19,261** or about **70.32% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

● Total number of civil cases handled	46,919
● Total number of cases terminated	27,391
● Terminated cases favorable to clients	19,261
● Total percentage of winning civil cases	70.32%

Out of **43,054 terminated labor cases**, there were **35,511** or about **82.48% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

● Total number of labor cases handled	81,234
● Total number of cases terminated	43,054
● Terminated cases favorable to clients	35,511
● Total percentage of winning labor cases	82.48%

Out of **6,381 terminated administrative cases proper**, there were **5,149** or about **80.7% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing indigent clients.

● Total number of administrative cases proper handled	11,891
● Total number of cases terminated	6,381
● Terminated cases favorable to clients	5,149
● Total percentage of winning administrative cases proper	80.7%

With respect to cases involving violation of **Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act)**, out of **46,168 terminated cases**, there were **21,879** or about **47.39% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing women clients.

● Total number of cases involving Women victims of violation of R.A. 9262	58,198
● Total number of cases terminated	46,168
● Terminated cases favorable to women clients victims of violation of R.A. 9262	21,879
● Total percentage of winning cases in favor of women	47.39%

On the other hand, with respect to cases involving **Children in Conflict with the Law** pursuant to R.A. 9344, out of **22,362 terminated cases**, there were **20,929** or about **93.59% favorable dispositions** obtained by the Public Attorneys from representing CICLs.

● Total number of cases involving Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)	34,631
● Total number of cases terminated	22,362
● Terminated cases favorable to CICL	20,929
● Total percentage of winning cases in favor of CICL	93.59%

N. Total number of clients assisted by the PAO-National Labor relations Commission (NLRC) Sub-Station located at Banawe, Quezon City **10,317**

O. Total number of research works and legal opinions for queries from the public that were either directly addressed or otherwise referred to the PAO **2,283**

P. Library Services **615**

- Number of legal books and reference materials distributed to Regional and District Offices
- Lex Libris subscription for the Central Office to facilitate research work

Q. PAO Equipment

For the period covering January to December 2013, the following office equipment were procured for distribution to various PAO regional and district offices as well as the Central Office, to wit:

● Computer printer	536 units
● Desktop computer	514 units
(Taken from 2012 budget)	
● Laptop computer	3 units
(Taken from 2012 budget)	
● Tablet	2 units

● Projector (Taken from 2012 budget)	1 unit
● Scanner	12 units
● Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) (Taken from 2012 budget): 514 units	809 units
● Desktop computer with UPS (not yet delivered)	503 units
● Fax Machine	4 units
● Office table	3 units
● Executive desk/table	13 units
● Clerical desk/table	30 units
● Filing cabinet (4 drawers) (353 units not yet delivered)	458 units
● Filing cabinet (2 drawers) (not yet delivered)	7 units
● Executive chair (32 units not yet delivered)	65 units
● Clerical chair	8 units
● Visitors chair	24 units
● Computer chair (15 units not yet delivered)	26 units
● Monoblock chair (235 units not yet delivered)	487 units
● Biometric time recorder (10 units not yet delivered)	32 units
● Refrigerator	2 units
● Vacuum cleaner	7 units
● Air-conditioning unit (Taken from 2012 budget): 2 units (14 units not yet delivered)	37 units
● Paper shredder	2 units
● Power generator	6 units
● Safety vault	2 units
● Copier machine (not yet delivered)	3 units
● Printronix (not yet delivered)	1 unit
● Manual typewriter (not yet delivered)	8 units
● Bookshelf	2 units
● Long bench	2 units
● Monoblock bench	2 units
● Divider cabinet	3 units

The Office of the Chief Public Attorney

- The Office of the Chief Public Attorney received and answered **58,684 communications** from January to December 2013;
- The Office of the Chief Public Attorney served **19,681 clients** during this period;
- The Chief Public Attorney served as **resource person** in the following events:
 - **Keynote Speaker**, 8th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers, August 6, 2013, SMX Convention Center, Davao City;
 - **Speaker**, 6th Student Advertising Congress (Theme: Mediamorphosis: Are We Ready for the Ad and Media Transformation?), March 4, 2013, 1 Esplanade, Diokno Drive, Pasay City;
 - **Guest of Honor/Speaker**, The Forum 2013: Responding to Modern Day Issues by Exploring the Legal Profession, delivered a presentation on the “Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines” on February 28, 2013 at De La Salle, Lipa City.
- The Chief Public Attorney personally handled and/or led the following **cases** and/or rendered legal assistance to the following individuals, to wit:
 - Dominga Cadelina, client of the Public Attorney’s Office, was the house helper for ten years of Janet Lim-Napoles. She was charged with qualified theft by Jaime Napoles and Reynold Lim, the latter’s husband and brother, respectively. While her case was being heard, Cadelina was detained at the Makati City Jail for almost eight months.

The PAO, led by Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta filed a Demurer to Evidence seeking the dismissal of the case. On October 4, 2013, Judge Carlito Calpatura of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 145 dismissed the qualified theft case against Cadelina for insufficiency of evidence.

- Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta successfully sought the quashal/dismissal of the Information filed against OFW Hedelito Trinidad, which indicted him in a Kidnapping for Ransom case and Violation of Anti-Carnapping Act.

On June 18, 2013, the Public Attorney's Office received the Order granting the Motion to Quash/Dismiss filed by Chief Acosta relative to Mr. Trinidad's case (*People of the Philippines vs. Rolando Lumbres Fajardo et al.*) as against a certain Eddie Trinidad. Supporting his motion, Hedelito Trinidad argued that he is not the Eddie Trinidad who is accused in the said case and there is no probable cause to indict him. The mentioned Order, dated May 30, 2013, was issued by Hon. Eduardo Israel Tanguanco, Executive Judge of Regional Trial Court-Branch 89, City of Bacoor.

- Through a Court Order dated February 4, 2013, Hon. Feliciano Aguilar, Presiding Judge of RTC-Branch 41 in Gandara, Samar, ordered the release of political prisoner, Ericson Acosta, from the custody of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Quezon City, and dismissed the Information filed against him.

This was in connection with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Resolution, dated January 31, 2013, stating that there is no probable cause for the crime of Illegal Possession of Explosives as charged, and the Motion to Withdraw Information filed by the Provincial Prosecution Office, Calbayog City, praying for the withdrawal/dismissal of the Information.

In consonance with the request for legal assistance of Ms. Kerima T. Acosta, wife of the said political prisoner, the PAO rendered provisional assistance in favor of the latter. The antecedent events constituting the efforts of the PAO which contributed to the subsequent release of Mr. Acosta are stated below:

a) The PAO filed a Manifestation Cum Compliance on January 17, 2013, seeking for the release of Mr. Acosta for the purpose of undergoing medical check-up, confinement and treatment at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) in Quezon City. Hon. Judge Feliciano P. Aguilar of the Regional Trial Court of Gandara, Samar, Branch 41, granted the said motion on the same day.

b) Upon further motion by the PAO, Judge Aguilar allowed Jail Officer Jesus Ostulano, who was initially ordered to escort Mr. Acosta to the NKTi, to be substituted by two (2) jail offers from the BJMP. The said Order, dated January 21, 2013, was issued to address the lack of manpower in the Samar Sub-Provincial Jail and the immediate need for Jail Officer Ostulano to report back to the said facility.

c) In view of the foregoing (subparagraphs a & b), the PAO, through a letter dated January 23, 2013, most respectfully requested the Department of Justice Secretary, the Honorable Leila M. De Lima, to immediately resolve the Petition for Review filed by Mr. Acosta at the DOJ sometime in 2011.

- The **71** civil cases filed by the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) against Sulpicio Lines, Inc. (SLI) on behalf of the victims of the *M/V Princess of the Stars* maritime tragedy, are on continuous trial at RTC-Branch 49, Manila; same with the **64** civil cases filed against SLI at RTC-Branch 10, Cebu City. The criminal case for Reckless Imprudence that is pending before RTC-Branch 5, Manila is undergoing trial and currently the subject of a Motion for Reconsideration before the Court of Appeals.

- The Chief Public Attorney received the following prestigious **awards & fellowship**, to wit:
 - **2013 Most Outstanding Filipino Woman in the Field of Legal Jurisprudence for Public Good** from the Gawad Amerika Foundation, given during the 12th Annual Gawad Amerika Awards Night, November 9, 2013, Celebrity Center, Hollywood, California;
 - **Outstanding Public Servant Award in Legal Assistance** from COMGUILD, conferred during the 6th Annual Conference of Criminology and Political Science Students of the Philippines on September 29, 2013 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City;
 - **Special Award for Government Service** given during the 15th Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) Founding Anniversary on August 2, 2013 at Camp Crame, Quezon City;
 - Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta is now a **Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellow (HSEF)**. With the blessing of the Department of Justice Secretary, the Honorable Leila M. De Lima, Chief Acosta was able to attend and complete the Senior Executive Fellows' Program, hosted by the John F. Kennedy School of Government, held on October 13 – November 8, 2013, at the Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, MA, United States of America.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. PAO CENTRAL OFFICE AND ITS DISTRICT OFFICES OBTAINED EXCELLENT RATINGS ON THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S ANTI-RED TAPE ACT (ARTA) SURVEY

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) conducted recently the Anti-Red Tape (ARTA) Report Card Survey, to obtain feedback on how the provisions of the Citizen's Charter are being followed. In connection thereto, the PAO-Central Office including its twenty-one (21) PAO district offices obtained a descriptive rating of Excellent. The said district offices and their respective numeric ratings are:

REGION	OFFICE	SURVEY PERIOD	FINAL NUMERICAL RATING	FINAL DESCRIPTIVE RATING
	PAO - CENTRAL OFFICE	Aug. 12-14, 2013	93.29	EXCELLENT
3	BALIUAG, BULACAN DISTRICT OFFICE	July 29-31, 2013	96.84	EXCELLENT
4-A	GUMACA, QUEZON DISTRICT OFFICE	July 17-19, 2013	95.73	EXCELLENT
3	MACABEBE, PAMPANGA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 24-26, 2013	94.41	EXCELLENT
4-A	BATANGAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 24-26, 2013	94.10	EXCELLENT
6	KALIBO, AKLAN DISTRICT OFFICE	July 23-25, 2013	93.85	EXCELLENT
10	ILIGAN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 23-25, 2013	93.63	EXCELLENT
10	MALAYBALAY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 22-24, 2013	93.36	EXCELLENT
11	MATI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-10, 2013	93.21	EXCELLENT
11	MALITA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-11, 2013	93.21	OUTSTANDING
NCR	MALABON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	92.85	EXCELLENT
3	GUIMBA, NUEVA ECIIJA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 19 & 23-24, 2013	92.67	EXCELLENT
6	BACOLOD CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	Aug. 1-2 & 5, 2013	92.42	EXCELLENT
6	LA CARLOTA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 23-25, 2013	91.94	EXCELLENT
7	TAGBILARAN CITY (BOHOL) DISTRICT OFFICE	July 23-25, 2013	91.84	EXCELLENT
6	ROXAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 9-11, 2013	91.71	EXCELLENT
NCR	LAS PIÑAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	91.70	EXCELLENT
4-A	LIPA CITY, BATANGAS DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	91.66	EXCELLENT
10	CAGAYAN DE ORO DISTRICT OFFICE	July 29-31, 2013	91.54	EXCELLENT

NCR	VALENZUELA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	91.34	EXCELLENT
5	LEGAZPI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE II	July 9-11, 2013	91.31	OUTSTANDING
1	BANGUI-PASUQUIN, ILOCOS NORTE DISTRICT OFFICE	July 22-26, 2013	90.88	OUTSTANDING
3	IBA, ZAMBALES DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	90.80	EXCELLENT
1	CANDON CITY, ILOCOS SUR DISTRICT OFFICE	July 2-4, 2013	90.54	OUTSTANDING
4-A	CALAUAG, QUEZON DISTRICT OFFICE	Nov. 11-13, 2013	90.48	EXCELLENT
4-A	BINANGONAN, RIZAL DIST. OFFICE	July 3-4 & 8, 2013	90.05	OUTSTANDING
3	MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN DISTRICT OFFICE	July 11-12, 2013	90.01	EXCELLENT
11	PAO-REGIONAL OFFICE NO. XI	July 22-25, 2013	89.87	GOOD
2	PAO-REGIONAL OFFICE NO. II	July 3-5 & 10, 2013	89.66	GOOD
11	TAGUM CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 17-19, 2013	89.64	GOOD
1	DAGUPAN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 10-11, 2013	89.57	GOOD
NCR	CALOOCAN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	89.43	GOOD
9-B	REGIONAL OFFICE IX- PAGADIAN	July 31, Aug. 1-2 & 5, 2013	89.34	GOOD
13	PAO-REGIONAL OFFICE NO. XIII	July 15-19, 2013	89.28	GOOD
4-B	STA. CRUZ, MARINDUQUE DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-10, 2013	89.25	GOOD
NCR	QUEZON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	Aug. 2, 5-6, 2013	89.20	GOOD
CAR	BAGUIO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 23-25, 2013	89.19	GOOD
7	PAO-REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VII	July 22-24, 2013	89.19	GOOD
10	CAMIGUIN DISTRICT OFFICE	July 22-26, 2013	88.97	GOOD
9-B	ZAMBOANGA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	June 24-26, 2013	88.86	GOOD
1	VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR DISTRICT OFFICE	July 9-10, 2013	88.82	GOOD
1	SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION DISTRICT OFFICE	July 3-5 & 8, 2013	88.78	GOOD
3	CAMILING, TARLAC DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18 & 19, 2013	88.73	GOOD
NCR	TAGUIG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	88.71	GOOD
9-B	MOLAVE DISTRICT OFFICE	June 18-20, 2013	88.71	GOOD
CAR	BANGUED, ABRA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	88.36	GOOD
5	NAGA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-10, 2013	88.34	GOOD
3	BALANGA CITY, BATAAN DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-11, 2013	88.30	GOOD
5	SORSOGON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-10, 2013	88.21	GOOD
9-B	DIPOLOG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	June 25-27, 2013	87.94	GOOD
4-B	ROMBLON, ROMBLON DISTRICT OFFICE	July 3-5, 2013	87.91	GOOD
6	PAO-REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VI	July 8-10, 2013	87.57	GOOD
NCR	MANILA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 16-18, 2013	87.17	GOOD
7	ARGAO (CEBU) DISTRICT OFFICE	July 24-26 & 29-30, 2013	87.14	GOOD
5	LEGAZPI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE I	July 2-4, 2013	86.87	GOOD
2	BAYOMBONG DISTRICT OFFICE	July 3-5, 2013	86.83	GOOD
4-A	TRECE MARTIRES CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 2-4, 2013	86.50	GOOD

4-B	ODIONGAN, ROMBLON DISTRICT OFFICE	May 27-31, 2013	85.73	GOOD
7	MANDAUE CITY (CEBU) DISTRICT OFFICE	July 24-26, 2013	85.62	GOOD
4-A	STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA DISTRICT OFFICE	July 18-19 & 22, 2013	85.50	GOOD
6	KABANKALAN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 22-24, 2013	84.34	GOOD
6	SAN CARLOS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8, 16-17, 2013	83.30	GOOD
3	PANIQUI, TARLAC DISTRICT OFFICE	June 24-26, 2013	83.28	GOOD
5	MASBATE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE	July 8-10, 2013	82.96	GOOD
4-A	THE CITY OF BACCOOR, CAVITE DISTRICT OFFICE	July 15-17, 2013	76.46	ACCEPTABLE
7	DANAO CITY (CEBU) DISTRICT OFFICE	July 17-19, 2013	74.29	ACCEPTABLE

EXCELLENT	22	
OUTSTANDING	5	
GOOD	37	
ACCEPTABLE	2	(Bacoor, Cavite D.O. & Danao City D.O.)
TOTAL	66	

B. DEAN OF OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW VISITED PAO

Atty. Rick Bales, Dean of Ohio Northern University College of Law requested for a meeting with Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta to explore potential areas of cooperation between the PAO and the said American law school. The meeting was held on November 30, 2013 at the PAO-Central Office.

C. PAO CONDUCTED LEGAL, MEDICAL, FORENSIC AND RELIEF MISSION IN TACLOBAN

Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta and the PAO Forensic Team were in Tacloban last November 28 – 29, 2013, where they conducted Legal, Medical, Forensic and Relief Mission, in accordance with the verbal instruction of the Secretary of Justice, the Honorable Leila M. De Lima to Chief Acosta to render such assistance to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda in Region VIII. The rendition of legal assistance, the giving of food, medicines and other relief goods were part of the humanitarian assistance that was extended by the PAO delegation to the said victims of the recent natural disaster which devastated Tacloban City.

D. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR SOUGHT PAO'S LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR ITS DETAINED NATIONAL

H.E. Khalid Abdelgadir Shukri, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Malaysia had a meeting with Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta on November 27, 2013 at the PAO-Central Office, relative to the case of Mr. Ali Yassin Brima Zaid, a Sudanese who is detained at the New Bilibid Prison. The public attorneys assigned by Chief Acosta to Mr. Zaid's case are extending the necessary legal assistance for the said Sudanese citizen's possible release on humanitarian ground in view of his deteriorating health condition and considering that he has already served ten (10) years in prison.

E. LEGAL ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO MS. JANET LIM-NAPOLES

The PAO, acting on the request of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, extended provisional legal assistance to Janet Lim-Napoles. Accordingly, Napoles was represented by Atty. Howard B. Areza, Atty. Marlon E. Buan, and Atty. Ana Lisa M. Soriano during the hearing of the said committee on November 7, 2013. Consequently, the Honorable Senator Teofisto Guingona III, Chairman of the aforementioned committee, thanked the Chief Public Attorney and the PAO. Senator Guingona also commended Attorneys Areza, Buan, and Soriano "for ensuring that all the rights of Ms. Napoles were protected".

F. POLISH AMBASSADOR, H.E. ADAM JELONEK VISITED PAO AND SOUGHT ITS ASSISTANCE

H. E. Ambassador Adam Jelonek of the Embassy of Republic of Poland in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, visited the PAO-Central Office on November 5, 2013, to seek legal assistance from the latter on behalf of Barbara Ziontkowska, Polish national who is currently detained at the Manila City Jail. The PAO through its Manila District Office is attending to the case of the said Polish national and is extending appropriate legal services to her.

G. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PAO AND DSWD SIGNED

The Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the Public Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Welfare and Development was signed by the Honorable Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and the Chief Public Attorney, on October 9, 2013 at the Main Office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Quezon City. The Agreement is for the benefit of victims of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), as defined under Republic Act No. 9344 (Juvenile Justice Welfare Act) and local prospective adoptive parents who are biological parents or step-parents of the prospective adoptees in adoption cases.

H. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PAO AND BUCOR SIGNED

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Public Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) was signed on October 3, 2013 at the Department of Justice, Manila. Pursuant to this Agreement, the PAO shall render, among other services, free legal assistance to qualified clients of the BuCor.

I. PERMANENT PROTECTION ORDER FOR MONALIZA N. SERPA JUAN GRANTED

A petition for issuance of a Permanent Protection Order with Prayer for Temporary Protection Order under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9262 filed by the PAO for Monaliza N. Serpa Juan against Alexis C. Reyes was granted by Hon. Roberto P. Buenaventura, Presiding Judge of RTC-Br. 86 of Quezon City, on July 3, 2013. A copy of the Decision was received at the PAO-Central Office on August 27, 2013.

Serpa Juan was allegedly hit in the head with a hammer by the respondent and suffered burns in different parts of her body which were also supposedly caused by the respondent with a plugged in flat iron and kerosene that was used to set fire on her body.

Criminal complaints for Frustrated Murder, Consummated Arson and Violation of RA No. 9262 have already been filed by the PAO for Serpa Juan before the Office of the Prosecutor of Quezon City. The case for Frustrated Murder was filed against the respondent at RTC-Br. 98 of Quezon City, but the respondent was able to post a bail for his provisional liberty. Hence, the filing of the abovementioned petition by the PAO on Serpa Juan's behalf.

J. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO TWO FEMALE JESUS IS LORD (JIL) PREACHERS

In connection with the request for legal assistance and forensic evaluation on August 8, 2013, of the relatives of Leonila Cafe and Adelaida Fabricante, Jesus Is Lord (JIL) preachers, who were allegedly raped and murdered by two policemen in Batangas, the Public Attorney's Office prepared a Complaint and other necessary legal documents on their behalf and appeared before the Clarificatory Hearing during the Preliminary Investigation. Forensic Reports were also made by Atty. Erwin P. Erfe, M.D., Director of the PAO Forensic Laboratory, relative to the said request.

K. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ROCHELLE LOPEZ (DECEASED) AND LIRIO JESTRE

Both of them were previously employed as *kasambahays* who were allegedly maltreated by their employer, Shiela Gomez. The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) assisted Jestre in the preliminary investigation of the case she filed against Gomez. After the preliminary investigation was concluded, another victim, Rochelle Lopez, who was allegedly killed by her former employer, was assisted by the PAO. A Petition for Review on the Resolution of the National Prosecution Service (NPS), Mandaluyong City in *NPS Docket Nos. XV-06-INV-BA-00033* and *XV-06-INV-13B-00162* was filed by the PAO on behalf of Jestre at the Department of Justice on July 25, 2013.

L. AUTOPSY CONDUCTED ON THE REMAINS OF THE LATE ABUSED KASAMBAHAY, ROCHELLE LOPEZ

The PAO Forensic Team led by Atty. Erwin P. Erfe, M.D., conducted an autopsy on the remains of the late abused *kasambahay*, Rochelle Lopez on July 6, 2013 at her family's residence in Brgy. Bactas, Basud, Camarines Norte.

M. COMELEC, DepEd, PAO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Memorandum of Agreement entered into by and among the Commission on Elections, Department of Education, and the Public Attorney's Office was signed by Honorable Secretary Armin Luistro, as represented by Undersecretary Alberto Muyot and the Chief Public Attorney, on April 11, 2013 at the DepEd-Central Office in Pasig City. Pursuant to this Agreement, the PAO shall provide Public Attorneys and staff who will be on duty on election day to render immediate legal services to any public school teacher and/or member of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) who is charged with a complaint or is in need of legal assistance in connection with the performance of her/his election duty.

N. EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD CONFERRED TO THE PAO FORENSIC TEAM

The *Extraordinary Public Service Award* was conferred to the PAO Forensic Team by the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS), in recognition of the committed and dedicated service

beyond the call of duty, and in making investigations and the resolution of cases, especially in the identification of victims of the *M/V Princess of the Stars* maritime tragedy, further enhancing equal justice and fairness to people from all walks of life, on April 1, 2013, AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

O. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPORTEES, EVACUEES AS WELL AS DETAINEES FROM SABAH

Chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta with her team from the Central Office, and Regional Public Attorney Edgardo D. Gonzales of PAO-Zamboanga Regional Office and Counselor Alicita R. Maulad-Doro of PAO-Tawi-Tawi District Office, rendered legal assistance to deportees, evacuees as well as detainees from Sabah on March 16 – 20, 2013 at the Juan Magluyan Naval Station, Batu-Batu, Panglima, Sugala, Tawi-Tawi, in connection with the letter of Ms. Carolyn T. Kiram, dated March 13, 2013, requesting in behalf of the Sultan of Sulu, Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, “*to conduct investigation on the current issues regarding the evacuees coming from Sabah...*” and the letter from 31 deportees from Sabah, dated March 13, 2013.

P. COUNSELING AND LEGAL ADVICE AT THE UP-CSWCD

Public attorneys from the PAO-Central Office rendered counseling and legal advice regarding women’s rights, in connection with the Gender and Development (GAD) sensitivity program of the University of the Philippines-College of Social Work and Community Development (UP-CSWCD) on March 7, 2013 in the said college.

Q. NOTICE IN FAVOR OF PAO ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN THE CASE OF “LOURDES L. SANTIAGO VS. AMRODIN T. MAKASILANG”

The Supreme Court (SC) resolved to deny the Petition for Review or Certiorari for the case entitled, “*Lourdes L. Santiago vs. Amrodin Makasilang*”, for failure of the petitioner to sufficiently show that the Court of Appeals (CA) committed any reversible error in the challenged decision and resolution as to warrant the exercise of the SC’s discretionary appellate jurisdiction. A copy of notice relative to this was received by the PAO on January 17, 2013.

PAO client Makasilang was a kidnapping suspect who was listed in the Order of Battle of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTAF). His case was dismissed by a regional trial court in Parañaque. He was in effect acquitted by the said court which led to petitioner Santiago’s filing of the said Certiorari.

R. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BY THE PAO AND UNHCR

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on January 8, 2013 in Quezon City, regarding access to free legal assistance, counselling and representation of refugees, stateless persons and those seeking recognition as refugees and/or stateless persons in the Philippine context, provided that such persons qualify as indigents, and the holding of seminars related thereto. Four (4) seminars funded by the UNHCR were conducted in Davao, Cebu, Laoag, and Ortigas Center, Quezon City.

S. MEDIATION SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED

Mediation was conducted by the PAO in the case entitled, “*Julita J. Roxas versus Stream International GS (Phils.) Inc., R. Scott Murray, Duane Cummins, Pearl Liu, Active One Health, Inc.*”. This resulted to a Compromise Agreement, wherein one of the terms and conditions was the payment of one million pesos (Php1,000,000,000.00) by the defendants to the plaintiff, Ms. Roxas, who was assisted by the PAO. Ms. Roxas represented her late son, Christopher Roxas, a call center agent of Stream International GS (Phils.) Inc., who died in the line of duty.

The said Compromise Agreement was approved and adopted as Judgment on December 14, 2012, of the Regional Trial Court-Branch 87 in Quezon City, presided by the Honorable Judge Aurora A. Hernandez-Calledo. A copy of the said Judgment was received by the PAO on January 7, 2013.