



“NAKAW NA YAMAN, IBALIK SA BAYAN!” PCGG, 28 Years Later

28 years ago, President Corazon C. Aquino signed Executive Order No. 1 creating a Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to recover the public funds that the Marcoses, relatives and business associates used to amass personal and business fortunes.

As the revolutionary government's first official act, the creation of the PCGG symbolized the nation's return to the light of democracy after 20 dark years of tyranny, and represented the Filipino people's aspiration for genuine public governance.

PCGG Mandates

EO No. 1 provided the PCGG with three mandates:

1. Recover the ill-gotten wealth accumulated by former President Marcos, his relatives, subordinates and close associates;
2. Investigate other cases of graft and corruption as the President may assign; and
3. Adopt safeguards to prevent the occurrence of corruption.

PCGG has since been waging an uphill battle to carry out its mission. On the one hand, the Martial Law cabal is not only back in power but had 20 years to launder abroad what they had stolen or hide their loot behind intricate legal structures to cover their tracks. And on the other, the Commission not only dealt with internal challenges but also had to work within a slow-grinding justice system whose structural flaws and technical rules the lawyers of the accused exploit to stall and frustrate its efforts.

The interminable delays in getting back the stolen public funds and misdeeds of some of its officials have frustrated the public so much so that a number had asked for the Commission's abolition. Be that as it may, the PCGG's over-all record is for the Filipino people to judge.

P167.5 Billion in Recovered Stolen Assets: hard-fought victories

Notwithstanding a limited budget, the PCGG has scored numerous hard-fought victories. Since its creation in 1986, the Commission has recovered a total of P167.5 billion of ill-gotten wealth while working on a budget of only P2.8 billion.

The amount represents the aggregate cash value of all accounts hidden in banks here and abroad, commercial and residential properties, shares in foreign and domestic companies, works of art and valuable personal effects that had been surrendered to the Commission or awarded by various courts in the Philippines, Switzerland and the U.S.

P70.2 Billion Coconut Levy Recovery: a landmark decision

The PCGG's largest single recovery, involves the San Miguel Corporation preferred shares valued at P70.2 billion, including dividends.

The Commission sequestered these shares in 1996 as they were purchased using the coconut levy, a special tax imposed on the sale of coconut products – and therefore public funds. The case dragged for 26 years.

But finally, in 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that the shares belong to the National Government in trust for the coconut industry and the coconut farmers.

The sale of the recovered shares in other coconut levy-funded companies like UCPB and the Cliff Oil Mills Group should raise a few more billions of pesos for the coconut fund.

US\$688 Million Swiss Deposits: game changer in global asset recovery

PCGG's successful recovery of the Swiss deposits of the Marcoses – US\$659 million in 2001 and US\$29 million in 2014 – led to the enactment of stricter money laundering laws worldwide. Outside of the Philippines, the Commission's efforts have been lauded as among the “most important and successful asset recovery cases” and have helped ferret out ill-gotten wealth of other dictators stashed in Switzerland.

P10 Billion Human Rights Compensation: giving what is due

The PCGG recognizes the just rights of those who died, disappeared or were tortured during Martial Law in the fight to restore Philippine democracy.

Consistent with this stance, the Commission supported the passage of the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2013, and earmarked for this purpose P10 billion out of the recovered Marcos Swiss bank accounts.

US\$32 Million Stolen Monet Painting: the first criminal conviction

For years, the former First Lady's social secretary, Vilma Bautista, had eluded the PCGG. Then in 2010, she sold a Monet painting for US\$32 million and remitted US\$5 million to a Hong Kong bank. This led the U.S. authorities to conduct an investigation and seize her bank deposits together with three other impressionist paintings.

The PCGG provided key testimonial and documentary evidence to the New York District Attorney's Office that helped secure Ms. Bautista's conviction.

There are still more than 140 paintings by Old Masters and other renowned foreign artists in the PCGG's missing artworks list.

US\$8.0++ Million Jewelry Collections: symbols of profligacy

The jewelry collections symbolize the profligacy and excesses of the Marcos government.

There are three different collections with total value estimated by Christie's at between US\$6 million to US\$8 million. Since the estimates were made in 1991 (Roumeliotis and Malacanang collections) and 2003 (Hawaiian collection), the total current value should be significantly higher.

1. The Roumeliotis Collection, which the Bureau of Customs confiscated from a Greek national who was trying to spirit it out of the country in 1986. The Supreme Court has affirmed the confiscation.

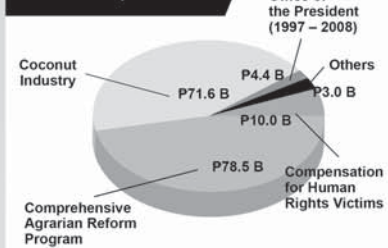
2. The Hawaii Collection, which U.S. customs officials confiscated from the Marcoses upon their arrival in Honolulu in 1986 and turned over to the Philippine Government in 1992 on orders of the U.S. District Court in Hawaii.

3. The Malacanang Collection, which was recovered in the Palace in 1986 after the Marcoses fled. The Sandiganbayan has ordered its forfeiture in favor of the National Government but the Marcoses filed a motion for reconsideration.

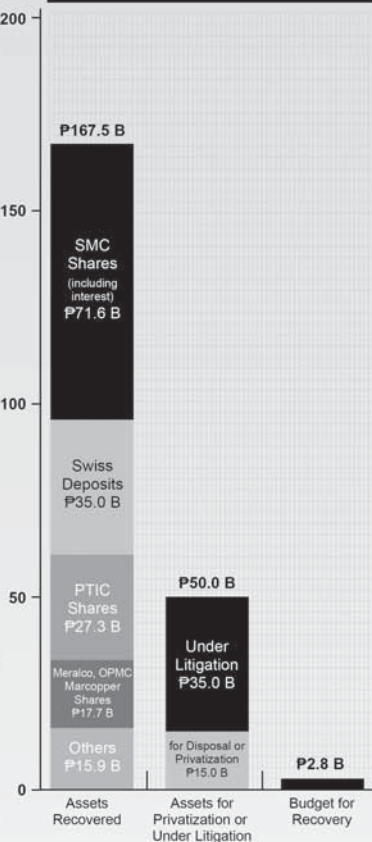
The Work Continues

In addition to the P167.5 billion already recovered, the Commission still has in its possession approximately P15 billion of assets that are up for privatization and another P35 billion in assets still tied up in litigation. A total of 278 cases, consisting of 186 civil, 59 criminal, 9 administrative and 24 others remain pending in various courts.

How the P167.5 Billion was/will be spent



Recoveries vs. Budget (1986 – 2014)



Highlights Through the 28 Years

