

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 670, October 22, 2007]

**AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 531, SERIES OF 2006 TO
SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF CASES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, there is a need to demonstrate firm resolve in the anti-corruption campaign;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Executive Order No. 12 dated April 16, 2001 as amended by Executive Order No. 531 dated May 31, 2006 as well as by Executive Order Nos. 531-A and 531-B, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) was created to assist the President in the campaign against graft and corruption by investigating or hearing administrative cases against all presidential appointees in the government and submitting its report or recommendation to the President;

WHEREAS, in order to speed up and streamline the investigation, hearing and resolution of cases involving presidential appointees, there is a need to give adjudicatory powers to the PAGC;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order the following amendments to Executive Order No. 531, series of 2006:

SECTION 1. Section 2, paragraph (a) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall have the power, on complaint or *motu proprio*, and concurrent with the Office of the Ombudsman, to investigate, receive, gather and evaluate evidence, intelligence reports and information on or hear **and decide** administrative cases against all Presidential appointees in the Executive Branch of the government and any of its agencies or instrumentalities occupying the position of Assistant Regional Director or an equivalent rank, and higher, otherwise classified as Salary Grade "26" and higher, under the Compensation and Position classification of 1989 (Republic Act No. 6758) including members of the governing board of any instrumentality, regulatory agency, chartered institution, and directors or officers appointed or nominated by the President to government-owned or controlled corporations or corporations where the government, hereinafter referred to as "covered Presidential appointees," as well as other public officers and employees, and private persons, in conspiracy or connivance with covered Presidential appointees, for acts or omissions constituting violations of any of the following:

- (1) Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act";
- (2) Republic Act No. 1379 on the unlawful acquisitions of property by a public officer or employee;

- (3) Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees";
- (4) And provisions under Title Seven, Book Two of the Revised Penal Code;
- (5) Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", whenever it defines and imposes administrative sanctions on acts and omissions constituting violations of the foregoing laws and issuances;
- (6) Rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority to implement any of the foregoing laws and issuances; and
- (7) Other violations as may be referred to the Commission by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Section 2, paragraph (c) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall, on complaint or *motu proprio*, have the authority to **administrative adjudicate on the merits**, all cases falling within its jurisdiction upon sufficient cause. All decisions of the Commission shall be rendered en banc and shall state, among others, the factual findings, legal conclusions and the appropriate administrative penalties imposed.

Such decisions shall become final and executory unless appealed to the President by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Office of the President within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof by the respondent in accordance with the procedure set forth in Administrative Order No. 18, series of 1987.

SECTION 3. Section 2, paragraph (d) shall heretofore read as follows:

The Commission shall have the Complaints and Investigation Unit (CIU), to be headed by a lawyer appointed by the Commission, which shall investigate all complaints/cases against all covered Presidential appointees. The CIU shall keep a record of all cases filed with the Commission, monitor their status and disposition, and shall make a quarterly report to the Commission on the progress thereof. In the conduct of its investigation, the CIU Head shall designate a panel of investigators preferably composed of three (3) lawyer-members, headed by a Chairman who shall conduct hearings and render a report of their findings and recommendation to the Commission en banc. In investigating complaints on disciplinary cases, the Panel of Investigators shall observe closely pertinent provisions of the Administrative Code of 1987 (EO 292), CSC rules and regulations and other applicable related laws, and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Commission, through the CIU Head, within fifteen (15) days from the conclusion of the investigation.

SECTION 4. Section 2, paragraph (e) shall heretofore read as follows: