

GMA extends revamp to appointees of sequestered corporations

By MARVIN SY

President Arroyo has expanded the planned revamp of state-owned firms to include appointees of sequestered corporations.

A memorandum issued by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dated June 22, 2007 and addressed to members of the Cabinet and the chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) specified that those covered are presidential appointees to government-owned-and-controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs) and similar agencies attached to Cabinet positions.

The memo reiterated that those concerned should submit their respective letters of resignation by the end of the month.

Included this time but not part of the original presidential instructions are appointees of sequestered corporations.

Among the firms sequestered by the government through the PCGG are those from the family and known cronies of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The firms include food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp., the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), Philcomsat and television networks IBC-13 and RPN-9.

"The general idea is for everyone to submit their resignations. The standard applying to others (now) applies to (those appointed to) the sequestered corporations," Ermita said.

While the President deemed it necessary to expand the coverage of the revamp to include almost all agencies of the government, she did not delve into the composition of her Cabinet.

As of yesterday, Ermita disclosed a total of 115 officials from 43 GOCCs and government financing institutions and four from the attached agencies have submitted their resignation letters.

When asked if the resignations included those of Winston Garcia of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Efraim Genuino of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), Ermita said no.

After the report of the President's instructions came out, very few of the GOCC heads responded despite a public confirmation by Ermita.

Ermita attributed the delay in the compliance to the President's order to the confusion over who exactly were covered.

Ermita then issued another memorandum on June 22 to clarify the issue.

"Rest assured that with the circular, we hope to receive more and more of the resignation letters," Ermita said.

Even as the resignations started coming in, Ermita said the President has yet to act on them.

He said all the letters submitted were forwarded to the Presidential Search

Committee for assessment.

The Search Committee would assess and evaluate the performance of the corporations and agencies to determine who would be recommended for retention or replacement, he said.

Ermita said he has also instructed the members of the Cabinet to submit their own assessment of the officials under the jurisdiction of their respective departments.