

## Sabio replaces Abcede as Philcomsat head

Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) chairman Camilo Sabio is now the one managing the affairs of the sequestered firm, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

Sabio told reporters Wednesday that he is "assuming full responsibility of Philcomsat as part of his duties as PCGG chairman."

PCGG is the government agency tasked to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the family and cronies of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Sabio replaces PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede at Philcomsat.

The PCGG chairman, however, stressed that he did not take Philcomsat chairmanship from Abcede since the latter never served as chairman or as a director of Philcomsat.

He said Abcede was directly involved with the affairs of Philcomsat before because he is the PCGG Commissioner for Assets and Management.

Asked by reporters why Abcede was replaced, Sabio said the decision was arrived at because the latter failed to answer senators' questions pertaining to the affairs of Philcomsat on several occasions during the Senate committee hearings on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises.

Abcede reportedly

earned the ire of some senators for questionable decisions he made at Philcomsat including the alleged purchase of a Toyota Camry for his personal use.

During the last plenary session of the 13th Congress, Senator Richard Gordon, chairman of the Senate committees on

Government Corporations and Public Enterprises and on Public Services submitted a report saying "the PCGG... failed miserably in its mandate to preserve and protect the interest of the national government in three companies in which the government has interests." (JC Bello Ruiz)