

Postscript

By **FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.**

ABCEDE CASE: On Aug. 11, 2011, the Philcomsat Holdings Corp. received the decision of the Ombudsman finding ex-PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede "guilty of misconduct and meted the penalty of suspension for six months from office."

The belated decision, signed by Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro on June 6, 2011, was sent by snail mail. It stemmed from one of 15 complaints filed against PCGG officials and agents who allegedly had looted PHC.

In this case, Abcede's purchase, receipt and use of a brand-new Toyota Camry in May 2006, was deemed "highly irregular and unethical... during the time of dissipation of PHC funds."

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A MISTAKE?: Abcede's defense was that this was simply a case of "mistaken delivery of a car" although his name was on the invoice and he kept on using the Camry.

During the Senate investigation on Philcomsat, the Toyota salesman who handled the transaction testified that Abcede personally selected the Camry and charged to PHC the P1.6 million price.

Now, the problem is that Abcede was replaced as PCGG commissioner over a year ago. This decision finding him guilty and suspending him was ordered by graft investigation and prosecution officer Randolph Nicolas on Oct. 30, 2009, when Abcede was still an active commissioner.

Had Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales not been installed as Ombudsman, the decision may have been thrown to the archives, never to see the light of day.

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