

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT

CLARIFICATION

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NEWS ITEM (18 APRIL 2011)

RE: **MARCOS VICTIMS DECRY DELISTING FROM SUIT**

BACKGROUND:

In today's issue of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** (18 April 2011, Monday, Vol. 26, No. 131), p. A2, an article entitled, **MARCOS VICTIMS DECRY DELISTING FROM SUIT**, written by Ms. Penelope Endozo, made reference to the following statements of Atty. Rodrigo Domingo:

[Atty. Domingo] denied any irregularity and said that the lawyers had been transparent in their distribution of checks, **observed by representatives from** the Commission on Human Rights and **the Presidential Commission on Good Government**. (par. 8, sub-heading *File claims twice*) [*Emphasis added*]

DISCUSSION:

At the onset, it bears clarifying that the Commission represents the interests of the Republic of the Philippines and the Filipino people--which includes all of those that were victimized and oppressed by the Marcos regime. In this regard, the Commission has consistently maintained its position that the monies subject of the litigation in New York and Singapore, *i.e.* Marcos ill-gotten wealth, rightly belong to the Filipino people. Some of these monies will go to the HRVVs--and rightly so, for the sooner it gets to them, the better.¹

Contrary to the representations made in the above-quoted report, there were no representatives from the Presidential Commission on Good Government present during any of the distribution of checks made by Messrs. Domingo and Swift. As such, it goes without saying that the Commission is in no position to comment on or attest to the "regularity," "transparency," or any aspect of the distributions made by Messrs. Domingo and Swift.

The Commission recognizes that human rights abuses and atrocities were prevalent during the Marcos regime. Nearly three decades have passed, but none of the HRVVs have ever received full and adequate compensation for the loss, trauma, violence, and damage that they suffered.

The Commission is fully supportive of genuine efforts to fully and adequately compensate all the human rights violations victims of the Marcos regime.

¹ The claim brought forth by Messrs. Domingo and Swift represents a *class of victims*. On the other hand, the Commission represents the Filipino people, the proper subset of which contains the entire universe of HRVVs of the Marcos regime.