

MANDATE: The PAO shall be an independent and autonomous office, but attached to the Department of Justice in accordance with Section 38(3), Chapter 7 of Book IV of this Code for purposes of policy and program coordination.

The PAO shall be the principal law office of the Government in extending free legal assistance to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative and other quasi-judicial cases.

POWERS and FUNCTIONS

The PAO shall independently discharge its mandate to render, free of charge, legal representation, assistance, and counselling to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative and other quasi-judicial cases. In the exigency of the service, the PAO may be called upon by proper government authorities to render such service to other persons, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

MISSION: The Public Attorney's Office exists to provide the indigent litigants, the oppressed, marginalized and underprivileged members of the society free access to courts, judicial and quasi-judicial agencies, by rendering legal services, counseling and assistance in consonance with the Constitutional mandate that "free access to courts shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty" in order to ensure the rule of law, truth and social justice as components of the country's sustainable development.

VISION: A government agency that is God-centered and dynamic bureaucracy that is responsive to the ever-growing legal needs of the indigents and oppressed led by highly competent, world-class, development-oriented, honest, dedicated and nationalistic leaders and lawyers.