

LEGAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2019 Accomplishment Report

The Legal Oversight Committee assists the GSIS Board of Trustees in carrying out its quasi-judicial powers, oversight responsibilities over Big-Ticket Accounts, and ensure GSIS's compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and procedures.

The Committee monitors, oversees, and recommends legal strategies regarding Big-Ticket Accounts which refer to cases wherein any of the following factors is present:

- a. Cases involving high-value real estate properties that are either owned, mortgaged, foreclosed, and/or claimed by the GSIS with an appraised value of at least Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000.00);
- b. Cases where the total claim (including damages and fees) involved is at least Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000.00);
- c. Cases that have substantial impact on, or present a threat to, the actuarial solvency, policies, operations, and reputation of the GSIS, as determined by the President and General Manager;
- d. Criminal, civil, and/or administrative cases filed by or against GSIS Trustees or officers (Vice Presidents and up) in any court, tribunal, office, agency, or body, in connection with the performance of their official duties; and
- e. Other cases that may be classified as a Big-Ticket case by the Legal Oversight Committee, in the exercise of its discretion.

In addition, the Committee reviews the quasi-judicial cases elevated from the Committee on Claims (CoC) and recommends to the Board of Trustees actions to be taken in the disposition thereof. It ensures the speedy, efficient, and responsive dispensation of justice.

The Charter of the Committee was approved on 9 February 2012 through Board Resolution (BR) No. 20 and was amended twice. The *first*, on 12 December 2013 through BR No. 149 to reflect the changes in the composition of the Committee; and the *second* one on 15 October 2015 through BR No. 154 to reflect the changes in the Chairmanship as well as to clarify the Committee's authority and responsibility with respect to the review of quasi-judicial cases. The Charter of the Committee is reviewed and assessed annually.



All of the Trustees are members of the Committee with the Chairperson, who is a lawyer, elected from among the members.

The Legal Oversight Committee is headed by Atty. Carlo Antonio B. Almirante.

In 2019, the Committee held eleven (11) regular meetings and one (1) special meeting, for a total of twelve (12) meetings attended by the following members:

Members	No. of Meetings Present
Chairperson Carlo Antonio B. Almirante	12
Board Chairman and Acting PGM Rolando L. Macasaet	12
PGM Jesus Clint O. Aranas*	5
Trustee Wilfredo C. Maldia	12
Trustee Jocelyn De Guzman Cabreza	12
Trustee Alan R. Luga	12
Trustee Anthony B. Sasin	12
Trustee Nina Ricci Ynares-Chiongbian	11
Trustee Kahar H. Macasayon	12

*Resigned as President and General Manager on 2 July 2019.

Legal Oversight Committee Milestones

Big-Ticket Cases

There were forty-five (45) cases identified by the Committee as big-ticket, for which the Legal Services Group (LSG) submits a regular quarterly report.

In 2019, the LSG obtained favorable judgment on the following big-ticket cases:

- Supreme Court in the case of *Gloria Maris Shark's Fin Restaurant, Inc. vs. GSIS (GR No. 2394825)*;
- Court of Appeals in the cases of *Sydney Charles Insurance Adviser Limited vs. Hon. Rowena Nieves Tan, RTC-Pasay and GSIS (CA-GR SP No. 157542)*; *Sydney Charles Insurance Adviser Limited vs. Hon. Rowena Nieves Tan, RTC- Pasay and GSIS (CA-GR SP No. 159017)*

The LSG was likewise able to obtain favorable judgment from the Supreme Court on the following cases:

- *City Government of Pasig vs. Meat Packing Corp. of the Philippines-GSIS (GR No. 239798)*; *Remedios Antonino vs. GSIS, et al. (GR No. 241895)*; *City Government of Antipolo vs. Hacienda Benito, Inc., et al. (GR No. 244697)*; *Sps. Ernesto and Patria Capus vs. GSIS (GR No. 242571)*; and *GSIS vs. Fe Esteves (GR No. 182297)*.

Quasi-Judicial Cases

Of the sixty-five (65) quasi-judicial cases in 2019, the Committee resolved forty-one (41) and referred one (1) to the CoC, leaving twenty-three (23) cases pending at the end of the year.

	2017	2018	2019
No. of Petitions/MRs at the Start of the Year	40	27	19
No. of Petitions / MRs Filed	42	31	46
No. of Cases Resolved	(55)	(39)	(41)
No. of Cases Referred to CoC	(0)	(0)	(1)
No. of Cases Remaining at Yearend	27	19	23