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PCGG man in ill-gotten car case is dismissed

THE Presidential Commission on Good Government has removed one of its commissioners from any role in running the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., after he drew flak for authorizing the purchase of a luxury car in his name using company funds.

In a press briefing yesterday, the commission's chairman, Camilo Sabio, said Commissioner Ricardo Abcede would no longer have a say in Philcomsat's operations.

Sabio said Abcede was not a board director, but he became involved in the company as the commissioner for assets and management.

The decision to remove Abcede came after he failed to answer questions about Philcomsat's affairs during a number of Senate hearings, Sabio said.

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Among the questions he was unable to answer was why he authorized the purchase of a Toyota Camry for his personal use.

"I'm assuming full responsibility," Sabio said.

On the last plenary day of the 13th Congress, the Senate proposed to overhaul the commission, which was created to recover ill-gotten wealth, after finding its nominees in a number of sequestered companies guilty of "overwhelm-

ing mismanagement."

"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, a Senate committee report said.

Senator Richard Gordon, who heads the Senate committees on government corporations and public services, said President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo should look into the eventual abolition of the presidential commission.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel last Wednesday revived the call for abolishing the commission, claiming that the agency had outlived its mandate. **Florante S. Solmerin**