

# Manila Standard TODAY

THURSDAY, January 24, 2008

## Sandigan asks: What P2m PR fund?

THE anti-graft court yesterday ordered three officials of the partially sequestered Philcomsat Holdings Corp. to explain why they should not be cited in contempt for a P2-million public relations fund that they supposedly used to pay off the court.

The Sandiganbayan's First Division, which filed the contempt case against the officials, ordered Philcomsat Holdings president Manuel Nieto, director Philip Brodett, and assistant

vice president and accountant Johnny Tan to submit more evidence rebutting the charge against them.

Philcomsat Holdings is the listed subsidiary of Philippine Communication Satellite Corp.

The Sandiganbayan issued the same order to Philcomsat Holdings board member Enrique Locsin, auditor Virgilio Santos, and lawyers Luis Lokin and Sikini Labastilla, who were also named respondents in the contempt charge.

The court ruled that it could

receive evidence from other witnesses that it may call in connection with the alleged disbursement of P2 million for the Sandiganbayan mentioned in Senate Resolution 455 dated June 7, 2007.

Senators had summoned Nieto, Brodett and Tan, signatories to the documents authorizing the payment, to explain what the P2 million was for and why they put on record that it was for the Sandiganbayan.

*Next page*

## Fund...

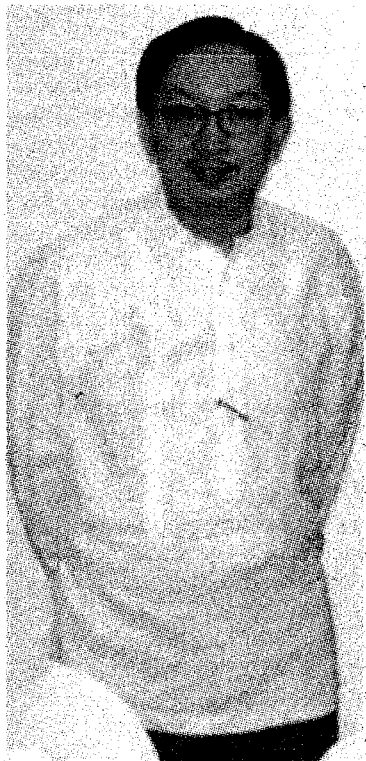
*From page 1*

Tan told the Senate inquiry he issued and cashed checks for P2 million as "PR" for the Sandiganbayan, but added he no longer could recall whether it was Brodett or Nieto who received the sum from him.

The respondents had asked the Sandiganbayan to recall the contempt charge against them, but the court refused.

It set the hearing of the contempt case on Feb. 20.

**Macon Ramos Araneta**



Philcomsat Holdings officials Philip Brodett, Enrique Locsin and Louie Lokin