



01 October 2025

HON. SHARON S. GARIN

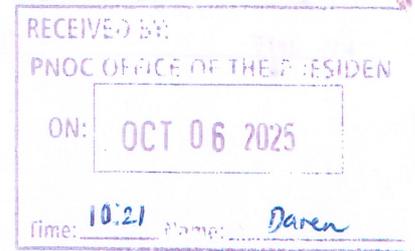
Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE)
and PNOC Chairperson

HON. MA. CHRISTINA SHEILA C. CABARABAN

President and Chief Executive Officer (PCEO)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

PNOC Building 6, Energy Center, Rizal Drive,
Global City, Taguig City



**RE: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE STATUS OF MR.
OLIVER B. BUTALID AS AN APPOINTIVE MEMBER OF
THE PNOC GOVERNING BOARD**

Dear Secretary Garin and PCEO Cabaraban,

This refers to the letter¹ of Atty. Neil L. Nabuab, Corporate Secretary of the **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)**, requesting an opinion on the status of Mr. Oliver Mario B. Butalid as a Member of the PNOC Governing Board. This request stems from the recent election of a new PCEO and, as confirmed through a subsequent phone conversation,² Mr. Butalid's courtesy resignation.

By way of background, on 23 June 2023, Mr. Butalid was appointed by the President as Acting PCEO and Acting Member of the PNOC Governing Board. On 28 May 2025, Mr. Butalid submitted his courtesy resignation to the Office of the President, pursuant to the President's directive and the GCG's Notice to GOCCs dated 26 May 2025. As of this writing and based on the GCG's records, said resignation has not yet been formally accepted by the President. Subsequently, on 12 August 2025, Ms. Cabaraban was elected as the new PCEO of the PNOC.

For guidance, acting appointments issued by the President are temporary in nature,³ including acting appointments for a PCEO. Thus, the PNOC Governing Board is not precluded from electing a new PCEO and other officers. Notwithstanding the election of a new PCEO, however, Mr. Butalid's appointment as Acting Member of the PNOC Governing Board is unaffected and he remains to be a Member thereof. The same is true even if Mr. Butalid submitted his courtesy resignation to the President.

In *Republic of the Philippines v. Singun*,⁴ the Supreme Court held that for a resignation to be complete and operative, there must be: (a) an intention to relinquish a part of the term; (b) an act of relinquishment; and (c) **an acceptance by the proper authority** which, in this case, is the President of the Philippines. Thus, pending such

¹ Officially received by the Governance Commission on 29 August 2025 with barcode no. 2025-023917.

² Phone conversation on 08 September 2025.

³ *Pimentel v. Ermita*, G.R. No. 164978, 13 October 2005.

⁴ G.R. No. 149356, 14 March 2008.



acceptance by the President, Mr. Butalid should continue to perform his functions as Acting Member of the PNOC Governing Board.

We trust that the foregoing sufficiently addressed your queries. Should you have other concerns, you may send an email via feedback@gcg.gov.ph.

Very truly yours,



ATTY. MARIUS P. CORPUS
Chairperson



**ATTY. GERALDINE MARIE B.
BERBERABE-MARTINEZ**
Commissioner