

Headline	Acosta, Erfe ordered to answer graft raps	
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## Acosta, Erfe ordered to answer graft raps

THE Office of the Ombudsman has ordered Public Attorney's Office (PAO) chief and her 'forensic' expert Dr. Erwin Erfe to answer graft charges filed against them by a public interest advocate lawyer.

In an order dated April 12, 2019, the Ombudsman gave Acosta and Erfe 10 days to submit their counter-affidavit to the complaint for malversation of public funds, falsification of public medical documents, grave misconduct and abuse of authority filed by lawyer Wilfredo M. Garrido Jr.

"It added: "Failure to file counter affidavit within the aforesaid period shall be deemed as waiver of respondents' right to submit controverting evidence and the preliminary investigation shall proceed accordingly."

The Ombudsman order likewise barred Acosta and Erfe from filing "prohibited pleadings" such as a motion to dismiss or bill of particulars, and to engage in "dilatory motions" including but not limited to motions for extension of time, second motions for reconsideration and reinvestigation.

Garrido has accused Acosta of illegally creating the PAO Forensic Laboratory without authority from Congress, and bypassing the premiere medical investigative bodies of the PNP Crime Laboratory and the NBI Crime Laboratory, which were both created by law for forensic investigation to be used by law enforcement agencies.

In his complaint, Garrido alleged Acosta created the PAO Forensic Laboratory to supposedly "manufacture" evidence to be used in filing dubious cases against officials of the Department of Health "based on the same corrupt evidence" in relation to the Dengvaxia controversy.