

This is a response to and a clarification on the news item that appeared in the February 7, 2017 issue of the BusinessWorld, which reported Eastern Petroleum Corporation's allegations (via a complaint filed before a court) of illegal refilling by Pryce Gases, Inc. and Mr. Efren A. Palma being alleged as president of Pryce Gases, Inc.

On 16 January 2017, a copy of the Resolution dated 14 December 2016 in connection with the case entitled *"Eastern Petroleum Corporation, rep. by: Mr. Generoso Ubaldo vs. Mr. Efren A. Palma, docketed as XV-03-INV-16H-2849, for: violation of B.P. 33, as amended by P.D. 1865 and of R.A. No.8293*, issued by the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, Imus, Cavite City, was mailed and received at the Pryce Gas Office located at Pryce Gases Inc., *17F Pryce Center Bldg., 1179 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City*.

Unfortunately, the case was filed against Mr. Efren A. Palma, who is not the president of Pryce Gases, Inc. and the subpoena was sent to 1129 Don Chino Roces, Makati, the wrong address, instead of 1179 Don Chino Roces, Makati, so that Pryce Gases, Inc. could not respond to the allegations.

Mr. Efren A. Palma is *not* the incumbent president of the Pryce Gases Inc. and this would have been easily verifiable by Eastern Petroleum Corporation through public records; *and yet*, they proceeded to file what appears to be a mere harassment suit against Mr. Palma. Mr. Palma became aware of the above-captioned Complaint only on 16 January 2017, after a copy of the Resolution dated 14 December 2016 was mailed and received at the Pryce Gas Inc. office. **He was not given an opportunity to answer the charges against him through the submission of his counter-affidavit in a proper preliminary investigation; instead, he was needlessly tormented by the Resolution, charges he could have easily responded to and repudiated had he been afforded the proper procedure.** All correspondences and notices from the prosecutor's office were delivered to the wrong office address.

The Management of Pryce Gases, Inc. declares as follows:

Through the years, Pryce Gases Inc., and its sister company, the Oro Oxygen Corporation, had built and nurtured its good business reputation as a respectable player in the field of LPG Manufacturing and Refilling.

We at Pryce Gases, Inc. do not condone the practice of illegal refilling or trademark infringement. Pryce Gases, Inc. has its own LPG cylinders for sale to the public. As the policy-making body of the Company, the Board of Directors ensures that the company abides by all the laws and regulations affecting the LPG industry. The brand name "Pryce Gas" is steadily gaining ground in the public consciousness and it is on its way to capturing a good slice of the LPG market and, thus, it becomes vulnerable to attack by its competitors.

Due to the foregoing reasons, Pryce Gases filed a Motion for Reconsideration with a prayer to re-open preliminary investigation and/or the conduct of re-investigation proceedings for

the instant case and to allow Mr. Palma to submit his Counter-Affidavit and supporting evidence.

Pryce Gases is further studying its legal options, including the filing of appropriate charges for **misuse of judicial processes** against those involved in the instant case.