



MALACAÑANG  
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 196

REMOVING MR. BRIGIDO C. GENEBRALDO FROM OFFICE AS JUSTICE OF THE  
PEACE OF DIGOS, DAVAO.

This is an administrative case filed by Miguel Chicote against Mr. Brigido C. Genebraldo, Justice of the Peace of Digos, Davao, for allegedly solemnizing a fictitious marriage, which was investigated by the District Judge.

It appears that on January 26, 1951, Virgilio Llanto, then Justice of the Peace of Governor Generoso, Davao, and married to one from Sibonga, Cebu, invited Adelina Chicote, complainant's daughter, residing in Governor Generoso, to go with him to respondent's office in Digos, Davao, so that they could be married by respondent who was his friend. Respondent forthwith "solemnized" the "marriage" and gave to Llanto a copy of the "marriage certificate" signed by the parties and the witnesses, Paciano Bangoy and Ofelia Lasala. Thereafter Adelina and Virgilio lived as husband and wife, and two girls were born to them.

When Adelina's father came to know that respondent did not enter the marriage in his register of marriages, nor send a copy thereof to the local civil registrar, and that Llanto was already married to one from Sibonga, Cebu, Miguel Chicote filed a complaint against Llanto in the fiscal's office of Davao which was later withdrawn by him upon Llanto's promise to return to Cebu and leave Adelina, which he did, at the same time resigning from his position as Justice of the Peace.

Respondent admitted that sometime in January 1951 Llanto, Adelina, Paciano Bangoy (Adelina's uncle) and a Mrs. Lasala came to his office in Digos, asking him to solemnize the marriage between Llanto and Adelina, but that he refused to do so because their papers were defective as the marriage license was not signed by the local civil registrar. An affidavit executed by Adelina, wherein she denied having contracted any marriage with Llanto, was presented to support respondent's claim that he never celebrated any marriage between the two. However, Adelina testified that she signed said affidavit at Llanto's bidding without knowing or reading its contents, which was not disproved by the respondent.

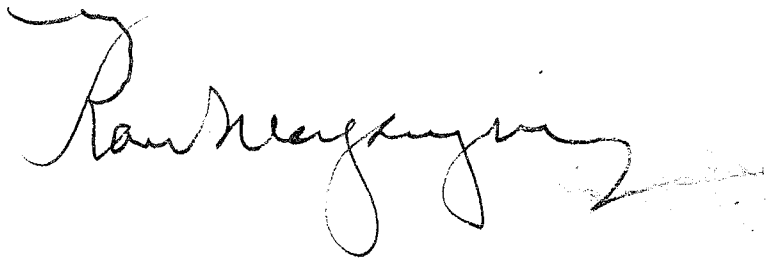
*Brigido C.*

After a careful review of the evidence on record, I am inclined to believe Adelina Chicote's testimony that on January 26, 1951, respondent "solemnized" her "marriage" with Llanto. There is no reason or motive for her to testify falsely against the respondent. The fact that the "marriage" between Adelina and Llanto was not registered evidently prompted respondent to deny having solemnized one between the two. That fact also shows that the marriage solemnized by him was fictitious and simulated for no other purpose than to help Llanto, his boyhood friend, from possible criminal prosecution, it appearing that Adelina, a minor, was taken in the family way. Considering their intimate relationship, respondent must have known that Llanto had been married in Cebu.

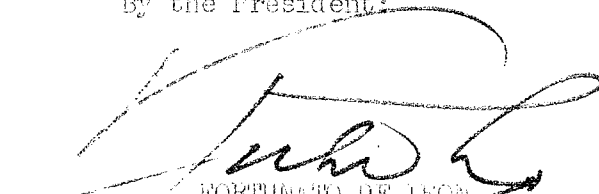
In view of the foregoing, I find the respondent guilty of solemnizing a fictitious marriage in order to save a friend from possible criminal prosecution. Such act of his is highly reproachable, immoral and unbecoming his position as a dispenser of justice, and renders him totally unfit to remain in office.

Wherefore, and upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Justice, Mr. Brigido C. Genebraldo is hereby removed from office as Justice of the Peace of Digos, Davao, effective upon receipt of notice hereof.

Done in the City of Manila, this **8th** day of **May**,  
in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, and  
of the Independence of the Philippines, the tenth.



By the President:



FORTUNATO DE LEON  
Acting Executive Secretary