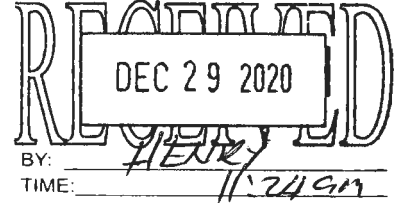




Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



ALBERTO LOPEZ,
Complainant,

A.C. No. 12081
[Formerly CBD Case No. 14-4225]

Present:

PERALTA, C.J.,
PERLAS-BERNABE,
LEONEN,
CAGUIOA,*
GISMUNDO,
HERNANDO,
CARANDANG,*
LAZARO-JAVIER,*
INTING,
ZALAMEDA,
LOPEZ,
DELOS SANTOS,**
GAERLAN, and
ROSARIO, JJ.

- versus -

Promulgated:

ATTY. ROSENDO C. RAMOS,
Respondent.

November 24, 2020

X-----X

DECISION

PERALTA, C.J.:

The instant administrative case stemmed from the complaint-affidavit¹ dated May 27, 2014 filed by Alberto C. Lopez (*Lopez*) before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (*IBP*), charging Atty. Rosendo Cruz Ramos (*respondent*) with violation of Canon 1 of the Code of Professional Responsibility (*CPR*) by willfully aiding the parties to the sale of a parcel of

* On wellness leave.
** On leave.
¹ *Rollo*, pp. 2-5.

land, in evading or defeating the payment of the proper amount of taxes due thereon; and for gross negligence in the performance of his duties as a notary public resulting in the notarization and registration of a forged deed of sale of the subject property.

The Facts

In the complaint-affidavit, Lopez alleged that on January 5, 2005, he was the vendee of a parcel of land at No. 362-A L. Ibarra Street, Tondo, Manila. The property was originally covered under a Transfer Certificate of Title No. (TCT) 143583 before the Register of Deeds of Manila, in Aurea Munar Masangkay's name.

Subsequently, Lopez discovered that on February 2, 1989, TCT 143583 had been cancelled, upon the issuance of TCT 184238 to Placida Ronquillo (*Ronquillo*). According to Lopez, it was thru a forged deed of sale notarized by the respondent, which enabled the regular issuance of a new title in Ronquillo's name.

In Criminal Case No. 90-83237 for Falsification of Public Document filed by Aurea Munar Masangkay before the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Manila, Branch 53, respondent was initially included as defendant, together with Ronquillo, and Benjamin M. Masangkay (*Benjamin*). Upon the City Prosecutor's reinvestigation, respondent was dropped from the information. Ms. Masangkay avers that both deeds are spurious because her signatures were falsified.² She contends that at the time that the deeds were executed, she was in Vancouver, Canada.³ This was proven thru an Affidavit⁴ she duly executed before the Philippine Consulate Office in Vancouver, Canada. She alleged that she only came to know of the existence of the two (2) deeds when she came back to the Philippines and verified these before the Register of Deeds of Manila. She discovered that the title of her property was already transferred in Ronquillo's name, and that the Community Tax Certificates (CTCs) in her name were procured by the vendee Ronquillo.⁵

On October 24, 2002, the RTC convicted Ronquillo. The case in the trial court was archived with respect to the remaining accused, Benjamin, one of the decedent's sons, who had accompanied the woman who, in turn, posed as his mother and signed "*Aurea Munar*" on the deeds of sale. Benjamin has remained at-large, while the said woman has remained unseen and unidentified.

² *Id.* at 90.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

In the course of the proceedings in the above-mentioned criminal case, it was determined that there were two (2) deeds of sale executed by, and for the benefit of, the same parties, and that these deeds have identical registration, page and book numbers, in the notarial portion. In addition, the respondent, as counsel for accused Ronquillo, introduced his own secretary, Consolacion de los Santos, who testified that respondent prepared, notarized and witnessed the execution of the two (2) deeds of sale covering the same property.

In a Decision⁶ dated January 12, 2005, the Court of Appeals (CA) acquitted Ronquillo due to insufficiency of evidence. Thus, it was held:

[T]here is no question that the signature of private complainant [Aurea M. Masangkay] in the deed of sale was falsified. It is not denied likewise that her son Benjamin forcibly got the original copy of the title from his brother, Emilio, and the said property was offered to appellant [Ronquillo] thru one Jose Raymundo and that [Ronquillo] agreed to buy the property for a price of [P] 130,000.00.⁷

In Lopez's complaint-affidavit, he avers that respondent prepared two (2) deeds of sale; one for P130,000.00 and another for P30,000.00, with the purpose of helping the alleged seller minimize the payment of taxes.⁸ At the time, a price of P30,000.00 would have exempted the transaction from capital gains tax.⁹

Also, Lopez argues that respondent was grossly negligent in the performance of his duties as a notary public when the latter failed to exercise prudence in ascertaining that the identity of the persons who signed the deeds before him were the same persons who executed and personally appeared before him. According to Lopez, respondent did not attempt to identify the impostor beyond asking and getting the latter's alleged residence certificate number.¹⁰ The impostor signed as "Aurea Munar," but the name on the deeds of sale, as well as the title, was "Aurea Munar Masangkay."¹¹ Similarly, the witnesses, Benjamin and Jose Raymundo (*Raymundo*), signed their names in two obviously different ways on the two (2) deeds of sale.¹² These did not elicit his suspicion as notary.¹³

⁶ Penned by Associate Justice Josefina Guevarra-Salonga, with Associate Justices Conrado M. Vasquez, Jr. (Chairman) and Fernanda Lampas Peralta concurring; *id.* at 88-96.

⁷ *Id.* at 94.

⁸ *Id.* at 3.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at 3.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

On the other hand, respondent alleged that he prepared and notarized only one (1) Deed of Sale dated January 26, 1989, with the amount of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (₱130,000.00) as consideration. Respondent argues that upon rigorous inspection of the deeds of sale, it appears that only certified photocopies and not certified true copies of the said documents were attached to the complaint-affidavit.¹⁴ He posits that since the photocopies of the deeds of sale are mere secondary evidence, these shall be inadmissible, unless it is shown that the original is unavailable.¹⁵ For this reason, the contention that he drafted two (2) deeds of sale for Ronquillo must not be given credence due to lack of competent evidence.¹⁶

As regards the issue that respondent was grossly negligent in the performance of his duties as a notary public when he notarized forged deeds of sale in favor of Ronquillo, respondent argues that this allegation is a mere speculation that has yet to be proven before a judicial tribunal.¹⁷ At the time that respondent submitted his Position Paper before the Commission on Bar Discipline (CBD), and raised this argument, the case for Falsification of Public document has yet to be resolved by the RTC.

As to the identity of vendor Aurea Munar Masangkay, respondent posits that he exerted efforts in verifying Ms. Masangkay's true identity through the latter's CTC.¹⁸ At that time, the CTC was sufficient proof of identity when the sale was executed in 1989, prior to the promulgation of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice.¹⁹

In a Report and Recommendation²⁰ dated January 28, 2015, Commissioner Erwin L. Aguilera found respondent administratively liable on account of his notarizing a deed of sale without ascertaining beforehand the identity of the vendor, in violation of the Notarial Law and the lawyer's oath; and in aiding his client Ronquillo in evading the payment of the proper amount of taxes due on sale. According to Commissioner Aguilera, respondent did not offer any tenable defense to justify his actions.

Thus, Commissioner Aguilera concluded as follows:

WHEREFORE, respondent ATTY. ROSENDO C. RAMOS is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year. In addition, his present notarial commission, if any, is hereby Revoked, and

¹⁴ *Id.* at 136.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 136-137.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 137.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 138.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.* at 150-161.

he is Disqualified from reappointment as a notary public for a period of two (2) years. He is further WARNED that any similar act or infraction in the future shall be dealt with more severely.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.²¹

On the matter of the criminal case of Falsification of Public Document, the issue has already been decided with finality by the CA, wherein documents annexed to the affidavit-complaint were indeed falsified and absolutely simulated.²²

Since the original deed of sale (with ₱130,000.00 consideration) forms part of the Original Records of Criminal Case No. 83231, and its genuineness and due execution have been certified by the CA, these rendered the deed as relevant and competent, as required by the rules on evidence.²³ With the two deeds valid, the preparation of the deed with a lower consideration was used to evade payment of taxes due to the government. This act is unbecoming of a lawyer, an officer of the court, who is expected to implement the laws of the land. Respondent violated Rule 1.02, Canon 1 of the CPR.

Respondent also failed to comply with Section 2(e), Rule VI of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice when he gave the same document the same registration number, page number, and book number as the first. Said Section 2(e) requires that each instrument or document, executed, sworn to, or acknowledged before the notary public shall be given a number corresponding to the register.

On April 18, 2015, the Board of Governors of the IBP issued a Resolution No. XXI-2015-256,²⁴ quoted as follows:

Resolved to ADOPT and APPROVE, as it is hereby ADOPTED and APPROVED, with modification, the Report and Recommendation of the Investigating Commissioner in the above-entitled case, herein made part of this Resolution as Annex "A", and considering Respondent's violation of the Rules on Notarial Practice of 2004. Hence, Atty. Rosendo C. Ramos['] notarial commission[,] if recently commissioned[,] is immediately REVOKED. Furthermore, he is DISQUALIFIED from being commissioned as Notary Public for two (2) years and SUSPENDED from the practice of law for six (6) months.

Respondent filed a Motion for Reconsideration before the Board of Governors of the IBP. On June 17, 2017, the Board of Governors issued a

²¹ *Id.* at 161.

²² *Id.* at 156.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.* at 149-150.

Resolution²⁵ denying the Motion for Reconsideration, the dispositive portion of which, is quoted on the Notice of Resolution:

RESOLVED to DENY the Motion for Reconsideration there being no new reason and/or new argument adduced to reverse the previous findings and decision of the Board of Governors.²⁶

We sustain the IBP's findings and recommendations that there is a clear basis for disciplining the respondent as a member of the bar and as notary public.

A notary public should not notarize a document unless the persons who signed it are the same persons who executed and personally appeared before him to attest to the contents and the truth of what are stated therein.²⁷ Otherwise, the notary public would be unable to verify the genuineness of the signature of the acknowledging party and to ascertain that the document is the party's free act or deed.²⁸

In this case, respondent was grossly negligent in the performance of his duties as a notary public. *First*, respondent failed to ascertain beforehand, the identity of the vendor, when he notarized the deeds of sale. The impostor signed as "Aurea Munar," but the name on the deeds of sale and the title was "Aurea Munar Masangkay." As to the witnesses Benjamin and Raymundo, they signed their names in two different ways on the two (2) deeds of sale. These did not elicit his suspicion as notary, wherein he could have had taken more precautions in ascertaining the identity of the vendor. *Second*, the deed of sale which respondent prepared and notarized, was proved to have been falsified. To reiterate, in Criminal Case No. 90-83231 for Falsification of Public Document, the CA held:

[T]here is no question that the signature of private complainant [Aurea M. Masangkay] in the deed of sale was falsified. It is not denied likewise that her son Benjamin forcibly got the original copy of the title from his brother, Emilio, and the said property was offered to appellant [Ronquillo] thru one Jose Raymundo and that [Ronquillo] agreed to buy the property for a price of [P]130,000.00.²⁹

As regards the existence of two (2) deeds of sale, respondent's secretary, De los Santos testified on the matter, in Criminal Case No. 90-83231. She stated that on the same occasion, respondent prepared, notarized and witnessed the execution of the two (2) deeds of sale. She further testified

²⁵ *Id.* at 170.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Spouses Soriano v. Ortiz, Jr.*, A.C. No. 10540, November 28, 2019.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Rollo*, p. 94.



that Atty. Ramos decided to prepare, notarize, and witness the execution of the said deeds, in order to minimize the payment of capital gains tax. She also mentioned that she saw the actual payment for the same property for the price of One Hundred Thirty Thousand (₱130,000.00) Pesos:

Q: Actually, how many Deed of Sale was (sic) dictated to you by Attorney Ramos?

A: There were two (2) Deeds of Sale, sir.

X X X X

Q: Can you tell the Court the consideration of the two (2) Deeds of Sale?

A: The other (sic) is One Hundred Thirty Thousand (₱130,000.00) Pesos, while the other is Thirty Thousand (₱30,000.00) Pesos.

Atty. Ramos

Q: Do you know why there is a need to prepare two (2) Deeds of Sale, one for One Hundred Thirty Thousand (₱130,000.00) Pesos and the other is for Thirty Thousand (₱30,000.00) Pesos only?

A: He said that it would [be] for the capital gain[s] tax, sir.

X X X X

Court: What capital gain[s] tax?

A: He said to minimize the payment of capital gain[s] tax, your Honor.

Atty. Ramos

Q: Were you able to prepare the two (2) Deeds of Sale?

A: Yes, sir.³⁰

X X X X

[ATTY. BERNARDINO SANCHEZ – CROSS-EXAMINATION
Atty. Sanchez]

Court:

Q: Were both sets of documents the two (2) Deeds of Sale one for One Hundred Thirty Thousand (₱130,000.00) Pesos and another for Thirty Thousand (₱30,000.00) Pesos notarize[d] on the same [occasion]?

A: Yes, sir.³¹

X X X X

Atty. Sanchez

Q: All right, after Mr. Benjamin Masangkay told Attorney Ramos that the purpose of, preparing those two (2) Deeds of Sale one for a consideration of Thirty Thousand (₱30,000.00) Pesos[,] the other one is for a consideration of One Hundred Thirty Thousand (₱130,000.00) [Pesos] and that was intended to minimize payments of capital gain[s] tax, Attorney Ramos cause[d] the preparation of the Deed of Sale?

³⁰ Id. at 21-23.

³¹ Id. at 30.

Atty. Ramos

Objection. The two (2) documents your Honor, were ask[ed] to be prepared as per request only we have no alternative but to follow the request of the client your Honor.

x x x x

Stenographer
(Question)

After Mr. Benjamin Masangkay told Attorney Ramos that the purpose of preparing those two (2) Deeds of Sale one for a consideration of Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00) Pesos[,] the other one is for a consideration of One Hundred Thirty Thousand (P130,000.00) Pesos and that was intended to minimize payments of capital gain[s] tax, Attorney Ramos cause[d] the preparation of the Deed of Sale?

Atty. Ramos

I move to strike out the [word] minimize your Honor, that was the intention of the parties but not the intention of Attorney Ramos to minimize it. [T]hat was the intention of the parties.

Court

Answer.

A: Yes, sir.

x x x x

Atty. Sanchez

Q: You said you were present when payment was made[.] [D]id you see the actual payment?

A: Yes, sir.

Atty. Sanchez

Q: How much was actually paid?

A: One Hundred Thirty Thousand (P130,000.00) Pesos, sir.³²

The RTC gave credence to De los Santos' testimony. As regards the original Deed of Absolute Sale with One Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (P130,000.00) as consideration, since this forms part of the Original Records of Criminal Case No. 83231, and its genuineness and due execution has been certified by the CA, these rendered the deed as relevant and competent evidence.³³ Thus, there are two valid deeds for the same property, with identical registration, page and book numbers, in the notarial portion. The preparation of the deed with a lower consideration was used to evade payment of taxes.

Based on De los Santos' testimony, respondent told her that he drafted and notarized another instrument that did not state the true consideration of

³² *Id.* at 36-37. (Emphases ours)

³³ *Id.* at 156.

the sale, in order to reduce the capital gains tax due on the transaction. Respondent cannot escape liability for making an untruthful statement in a public document for an unlawful purpose. As the second deed indicated an amount lower than the actual price paid for the property sold, respondent abetted in depriving the Government of the right to collect the correct taxes due. Respondent violated Rule 1.02, Canon 1 of the CPR, to wit:

CANON 1 - A LAWYER SHALL UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, OBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND AND PROMOTE RESPECT FOR LAW OF AND LEGAL PROCESSES.

Rule 1.02 - A lawyer shall not counsel or abet activities aimed at defiance of the law or at lessening confidence in the legal system.

Respondent assisted the contracting parties in an activity aimed at defiance of law, and displayed lack of respect for and made a mockery of the solemnity of the oath in an Acknowledgment.³⁴ When the respondent notarized an illegal and fraudulent document, he is entitling full faith and credit upon the face of the document, which it does not deserve, considering its nature and purpose.³⁵

The act of notarization is imbued with substantive public interest wherein a private document is converted into a public document, which results in the document's admissibility in evidence without further proof of its authenticity.³⁶

It is the notary public's duty to observe utmost care in complying with the formalities intended to protect the integrity of the notarized document and the act or acts it embodies.³⁷ In *Gonzales v. Atty. Ramos*,³⁸ the Court emphasized the importance of notarization:

By affixing his notarial seal on the instrument, the respondent converted the Deed of Absolute Sale, from a private document into a public document. Such act is no empty gesture. The principal function of a notary public is to authenticate documents. When a notary public certifies to the due execution and delivery of a document under his hand and seal, he gives the document the force of evidence. Indeed, one of the purposes of requiring documents to be acknowledged before a notary public, in addition to the solemnity which should surround the execution and delivery of documents, is to authorize such documents to be given without further proof of their execution and delivery. A notarial document is by law entitled to full faith and credit upon its face. Courts, administrative agencies and the public at large must be able to rely upon the acknowledgement executed before a

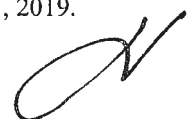
³⁴ *Caalim-Verzonilla v. Atty. Pascua*, 674 Phil. 550, 560 (2011).

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Venson R. Ang v. Atty. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.*, A.C. No. 12408, December 11, 2019.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ 499 Phil. 345, 350 (2005).



notary public and appended to a private instrument. Hence, a notary public must discharge his powers and duties, which are impressed with public interest, with accuracy and fidelity.

Aside from the duty of the notary public to ascertain the identity of the affiant and the voluntariness of the declaration, it is also incumbent upon him to guard against any illegal or immoral arrangement or at least refrain from being a party to its consummation.³⁹ Rule IV, Section 4(a) of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice prohibits notaries public from performing any notarial act for transactions similar to the subject deeds of sale, to wit:

SEC. 4. *Refusal to Notarize.* — A notary public shall not perform any notarial act described in these Rules for any person requesting such an act even if he tenders the appropriate fee specified by these Rules if:

- (a) the notary knows or has good reason to believe that the notarial act or transaction is unlawful or immoral;

Despite knowledge of the illegal purpose of evading the payment of proper taxes due, respondent proceeded to notarize the second deed of sale. Instead of accommodating the request of his client, Benjamin, respondent, being a member of the legal profession, should have stood his ground and not yielded to the request of his client. Respondent should have been more prudent and unfaltering in his solemn oath neither to do falsehood nor consent to the doing of any.⁴⁰ As a lawyer, respondent is expected at all times to uphold the integrity and dignity of the legal profession and refrain from any act or omission which might lessen the trust and confidence reposed by the public in the integrity of the legal profession.⁴¹

When respondent gave the second deed of sale the same registration, page and book numbers as the first, respondent violated Section 2, Rule VI of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice, to wit:

SEC. 2. *Entries in the Notarial Register.* —

x x x x

- (e) The notary public shall give to each instrument or document executed, sworn to, or acknowledged before him a number corresponding to the one in his register, and shall also state on the instrument or document the page/s of his register on which the same is recorded. No blank line shall be left between entries.

³⁹ *Dimayuga v. Atty. Rubia*, A.C. No. 8854, July 3, 2018.

⁴⁰ Canon 10, Rule 10.01, Code of Professional Responsibility.

Rule 10.01 - A lawyer shall not do any falsehood, nor consent to the doing of any in Court; nor shall he mislead, or allow the Court to be misled by any artifice.

⁴¹ *Orola v. Baribar*, A.C. No. 6927, March 14, 2018, 858 SCRA 556, 564.

We ruled that the Court may suspend or disbar a lawyer for any misconduct showing any fault or deficiency in his moral character, honesty, probity or good demeanor.⁴²

Under Section 27, Rule 138 of the Revised Rules of Court:

SEC. 27. *Disbarment or suspension of attorneys by Supreme Court, grounds herefore.* — A member of the bar may be disbarred or suspended from his office as attorney by the Supreme Court for **any deceit**, malpractice, or other gross misconduct in such office, grossly immoral conduct, or by reason of his conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, of for **any violation of the oath** which he is required to take before admission to practice, or for a willful disobedience appearing as an attorney for a party to a case without authority so to do. The practice of soliciting cases at law for the purpose of gain, either personally or through paid agents or brokers, constitutes malpractice.

In *Gonzales*, the notary public suffered the penalties of revocation of his notarial commission and disqualification from re-appointment for two years, and suspension from the practice of law for one year, when he was found to have notarized a document despite the non-appearance of one of the signatories.⁴³ The same penalties in *Gonzales*⁴⁴ were applied in *Dandoy v. Edayan*,⁴⁵ *Lanuzo v. Atty. Bongon*,⁴⁶ *Pantoja-Mumar v. Atty. Flores*,⁴⁷ and *Bautista v. Atty. Bernabe*.⁴⁸ In *Gonzales*, the Court ruled that by notarizing the subject Deed of Sale, respondent engaged in unlawful, dishonest, immoral or deceitful conduct.⁴⁹

In the instant case, we hold that respondent suffer the penalty of suspension and revocation of his notarial commission for two (2) years, for violating the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice. This is in accord with current jurisprudence and the recommendation by the IBP Board of Governors.

As regards his suspension from the practice of law, we hold that neither the one-year suspension imposed in *Gonzales* and in the other cases, nor the six-month suspension recommended by the IBP Board of Governors, is applicable to this case. The one-year and the six-month suspension from the practice of law are not commensurate to the graveness of the respondent's transgressions.

⁴² *Arlene O. Bautista v. Atty. Zenaida M. Ferrer*, A.C. No. 9057, July 3, 2019.

⁴³ *Gonzales v. Atty. Ramos*, *supra* note 38, at 351.

⁴⁴ *Supra* note 38.

⁴⁵ A.C. No. 12084, June 6, 2018, 864 SCRA 152.

⁴⁶ 587 Phil. 658 (2008).

⁴⁷ 549 Phil. 261 (2007).

⁴⁸ 517 Phil. 236 (2006).

⁴⁹ *Gonzales v. Atty. Ramos*, *supra* note 38, at 351.

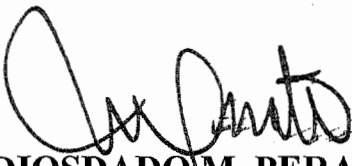
The case of *Caalim-Verzonilla v. Pascua*,⁵⁰ is analogous to the case at bar. In *Caalim-Verzonilla*, respondent Pascua prepared and notarized two Deeds of Extra-Judicial Settlement. The two deeds have been executed by and for the benefit of the same parties, and have identical registration, page and book numbers in the notarial portion. In addition, the two deeds were alleged to have been falsified, and have different considerations, with the end purpose of evading the payment of correct taxes. In *Caalim-Verzonilla*, the Court suspended Pascua from practicing law for a period of two (2) years, revoked his notarial commission, disqualified him from reappointment as a notary public for a period of two (2) years, and gave him a warning that any similar act or infraction in the future shall be dealt with more sternly.

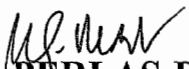
Thus, with respect to respondent's suspension from the practice of law, we hold that respondent's failure to faithfully comply with the rules on notarial practice, and his violation of his oath as lawyer when he prepared and notarized the second deed for the purpose of avoiding the payment of the correct amount of taxes, shall be meted with a penalty of a two (2)-year suspension from the practice of law. The said penalty is proper and commensurate to the infraction committed by respondent.

WHEREFORE, respondent **ATTY. ROSENDO C. RAMOS** is hereby **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for a period of two (2) years. In addition, his present notarial commission, if any, is hereby **REVOKED**, and he is **DISQUALIFIED** from reappointment as a notary public for a period of two (2) years. He is **STERNLY WARNED** that any similar act or infraction in the future shall be dealt with more severely.

Let copies of this Decision be furnished all courts of the land through the Office of the Court Administrator, as well as the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and the Office of the Bar Confidant, and recorded in the personal records of the respondent.

SO ORDERED.


DIOSDADO M. PERALTA
Chief Justice



ESTELA M. PERLAS-BERNABE
Associate Justice

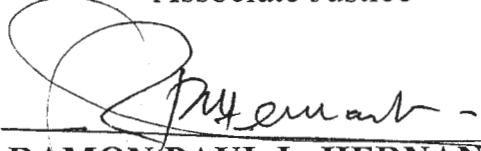

MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN
Associate Justice

⁵⁰

Supra note 34.


On wellness leave
ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA
Associate Justice



ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO
Associate Justice

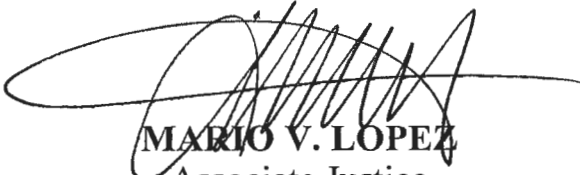

RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO
Associate Justice

On wellness leave
ROSMARI D. CARANDANG
Associate Justice


On wellness leave
AMY C. LAZARO-JAVIER
Associate Justice

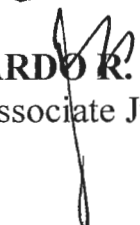

HENRI JEAN PAUL B. INTING
Associate Justice


RODIL V. ZALAMEDA
Associate Justice

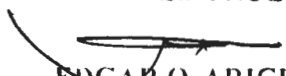

MARIO V. LOPEZ
Associate Justice

On leave
EDGARDO L. DELOS SANTOS
Associate Justice


SAMUEL H. GAERLAN
Associate Justice


RICARDO R. ROSARIO
Associate Justice

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EDGAR O. ARICHETA
Clerk of Court En Banc
Supreme Court