

Republic of the Philippines
SANDIGANBAYAN
Quezon City

Second Division

People of the Philippines,
Plaintiff,

Crim. Cases Nos. SB-15-CRM-0248 to 0251
*For: Violation of Sec. 8 in relation to
Sec. 11(a) of R.A. 6713 (Code of
Conduct and Ethical Standards for
Public Officials and Employees)*

-versus-

Present:
Herrera, Jr., J. *Chairperson*
Musngi, J. &
Pahimna, J.

Maria Gracia Cielo Magno
Padaca,

Accused.

Promulgated:

September 27, 2017
[Signature]

X-----X

DECISION

HERRERA, JR., J.:

Accused Maria Gracia Cielo Magno Padaca (Padaca for short) is charged before the Court with four (4) counts of ***Violation of Section 8, in relation to Section 11(a), of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6713*** otherwise known as the ***Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees***, under four (4) separate ***Informations*** all dated September 24, 2015.

In the first one, Criminal Case No. SB-15-CRM-0248, the accusatory portion of the ***Information*** reads:

“That on or about May 1, 2008 or subsequent thereto, in Isabela Province, Philippines, and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, accused MARIA GRACIA CIELO MAGNO PADACA, a public officer being the Governor of the Province of Isabela and as such has the official duty to duly file her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN), committing the offense in relation to office, did there and there willfully, unlawfully and criminally fail to file her SALN for the year 2007, in utter disregard of her official obligation.

CONTRARY TO LAW.”

[Handwritten signatures and marks]

The accusatory portion of the *Informations* in the three (3) other cases – Criminal Cases Nos. SB-15-CRM-0249, 0250 and 0251 – are similarly worded as that of Criminal Case No. SB-15-CRM-0248 quoted above, except only on the alleged dates of commission of the offense and the year of the SALN.

In Criminal Case No. SB-15-CRM-0249, the alleged date of commission of the offense is May 1, 2009 and the SALN is for the year 2008.

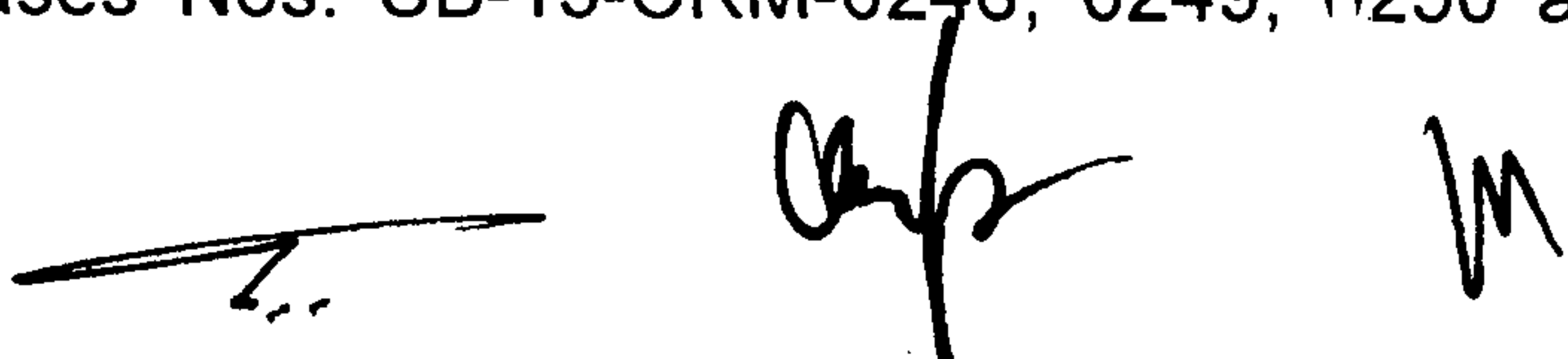
In Criminal Case No. SB-15-CRM-0250, the alleged date of commission of the offense is May 1, 2010 and the SALN is for the year 2009.

In Criminal Case No. SB-15-CRM-0251, the alleged date of commission of the offense is May 1, 2011 and the SALN is for the year 2010.

In today's hearing, accused Padaca, through counsel Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan, moved that she be allowed to withdraw her earlier plea of not guilty to the charges, and that she be re-arraigned so that she enter a plea of guilty instead. The prosecution did not interpose any objection and the Court thus granted the motion.

Upon being re-arraigned, accused Padaca, through Atty. Vinluan, manifested that she is waving the reading of the *Informations* in these cases. Upon being personally asked by the Court, accused Padaca affirmed the manifestation of her counsel and declared that she understands the nature and cause of the accusations against her. She thereafter entered a plea of guilty to the charges in Criminal Cases Nos. SB-15-CRM-0248, 0249, 0250 and 0251.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Court finds accused Maria Gracia Cielo Magno Padaca guilty of ***Violation of Section 8, in relation to Section 11(a), of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6713, also known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees***, in Criminal Cases Nos. SB-15-CRM-0248, 0249, 0250 and



0251. Considering the voluntary plea of guilty of the accused, and conformably with the provisions of **Section 11(a) of R.A. 6713**, the Court hereby sentences her to pay a fine of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000) in each of the four (4) criminal cases aforementioned, or the total amount of ₱4,000.

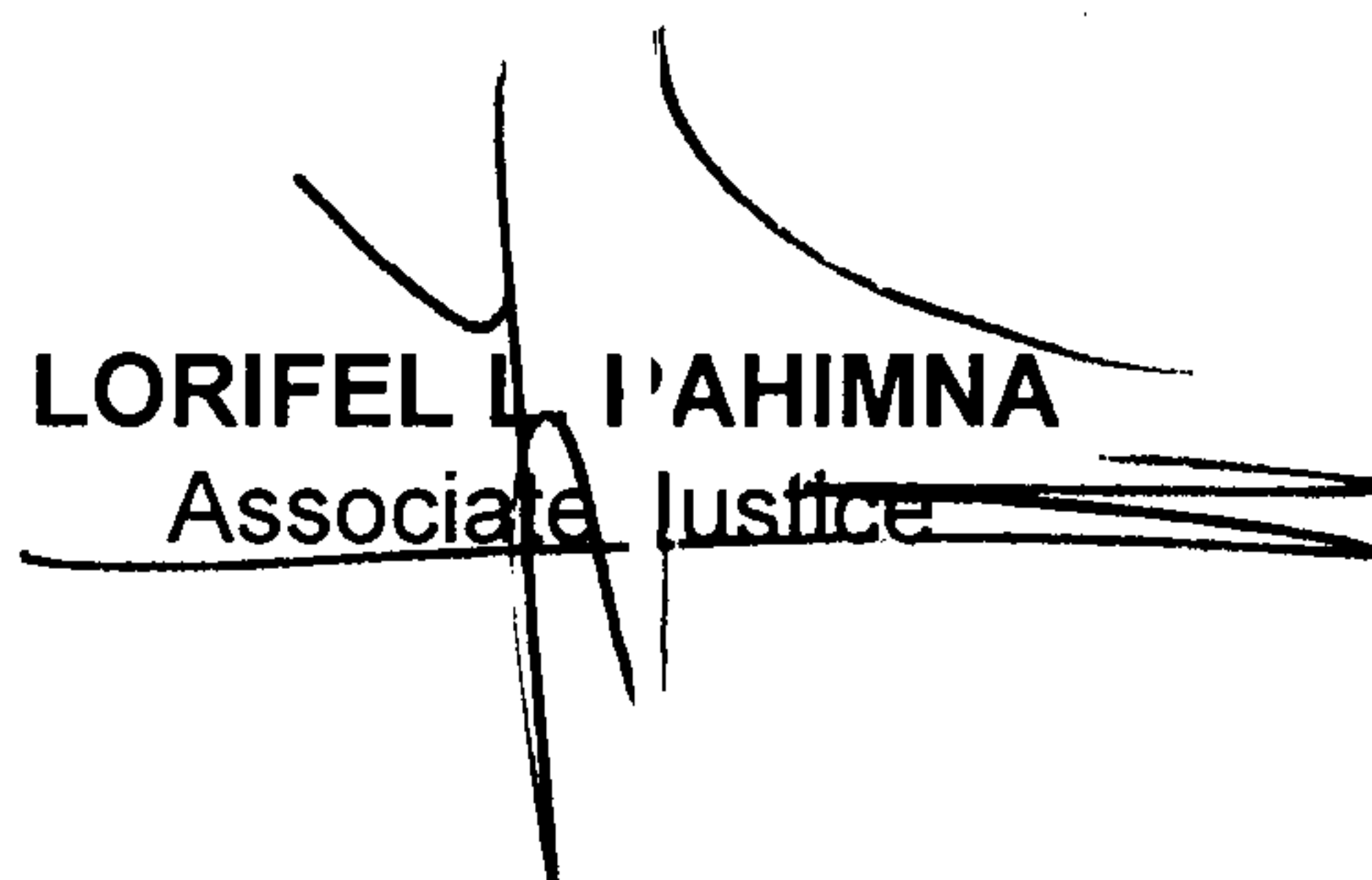
SO ORDERED.

Given in open Court this 27th day of September 2017 at Quezon City, Philippines.


OSCAR C. HERRERA, JR.
Chairperson

We concur:


MICHAEL FREDERICK L. MUSNGI
Associate Justice


LORIFEL L. PAHIMNA
Associate Justice

ATTESTATION

I attest that the conclusions in the above decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.


OSCAR C. HERRERA, JR.
Chairperson
Second Division

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution and the Division Chairman's Attestation, it is hereby certified that the conclusions in the above decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.


AMPARO M. CABOTAJE-TANG
Presiding Justice