

Republic of the Philippines  
**SANDIGANBAYAN**  
Quezon City

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Second Division

People of the Philippines,  
Plaintiff,

Crim. Cases Nos. 28309 & 28324

For: Malversation of Public Funds  
Falsification of Public Documents

-versus-

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

Nachito G. Baylon, et al.,  
Accused.

Promulgated:

September 25, 2017

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**RESOLUTION**

***HERRERA, JR., J:***

This pertains to the prayer of accused Sonia V. Seville (Seville for short) for the withdrawal of her travel bond of P60,000 contained in the ***Report And Appearance Of Accused Sonia V. Seville With Motion To Withdraw Travel Bond***<sup>1</sup> dated May 25, 2017, filed by accused Seville, through counsel.

In a ***Resolution***<sup>2</sup> dated April 7, 2017, the Court granted accused Seville authority to travel to Singapore and Malaysia on May 11, 2017 to May 16, 2017, under terms and conditions that included the following:

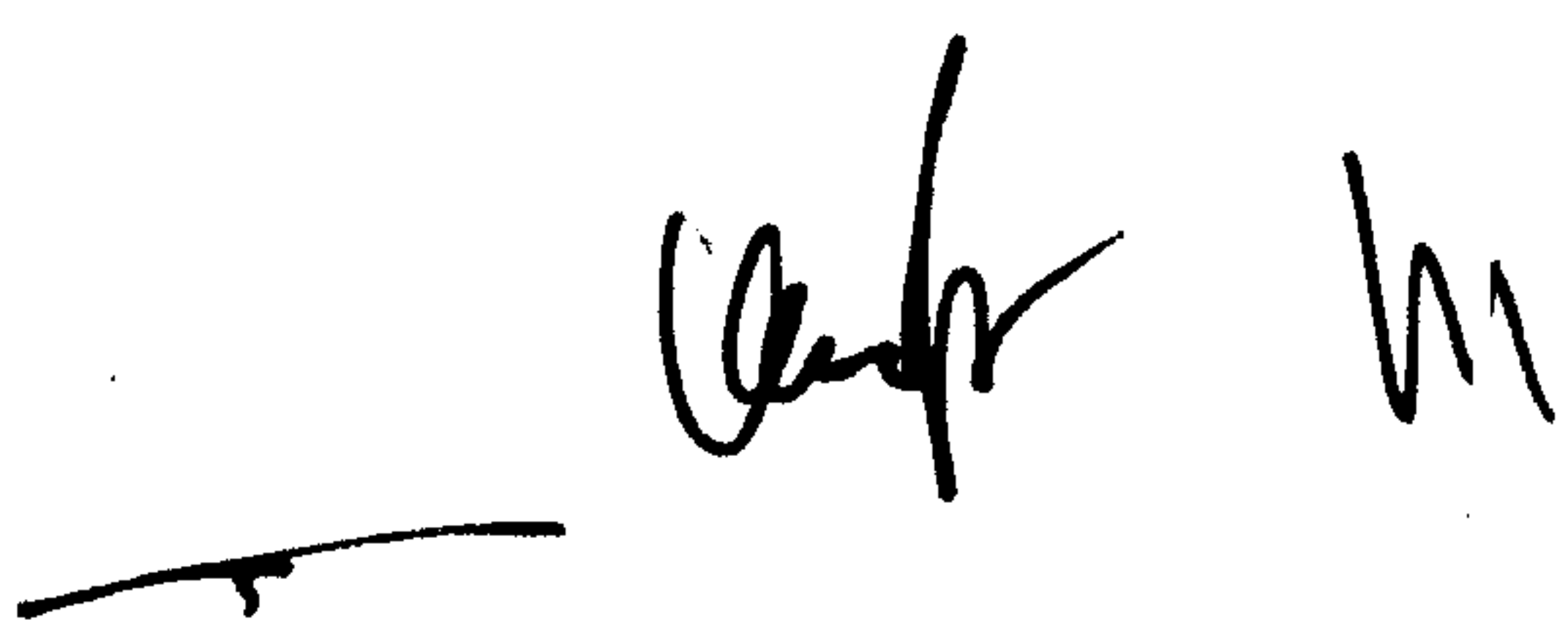
"4. After completion of the authorized travel of the accused and immediately upon return to the Philippines, the accused shall, within five (5) days from arrival, personally appear before the Clerk of Court of this Division and submit proof of date of return to the Philippines,

xxx.

6. Should the accused fail to comply with the conditions herein imposed in connection with the authority to travel, trial against the accused shall proceed **in absentia**; the

<sup>1</sup> Record, Vol. 5, pp. 2074-2079

<sup>2</sup> Id, pp. 2060-2061



travel cash bond shall be cancelled and forfeited in favor of the government and any future Motion for Leave to Travel which may be filed by the accused shall be denied.”

Accused Seville failed to personally appear before the Clerk of Court of this Division to present her passport upon the return, in violation of the condition imposed in the authority to travel which the Court granted to her. In her **Report and Reappearance, etc.** dated May 25, 2017, which she filed with the Court on June 8, 2017, she did not even explain why she failed to do so. In fact, she did not appear at the hearing of her motion to withdraw her travel bond on June 28, 2017, prompting the Court to require the submission of an explanation.<sup>3</sup>

In the **Justification Of Accused Sonia V. Seville On Why She Did Not Appear Before The Clerk Of Court After Completion Of Her Foreign Trial**<sup>4</sup> dated July 6, 2017, filed by accused Seville, through counsel, she declared, *inter alia*, that she:

“xxx overlooked to comply with the Court’s resolution because when she arrived in the Philippines she was weak and sickly due to over fatigue and old age (she is now 72 years old), and that in her previous three (3) foreign travels, she could not exactly remember whether she has *personally appeared before the Clerk of Court of this Division*, but her motion to withdraw travel bond was approved by this Honorable Court even though it was only her late brother and sister-in-law who made personal appearances before the Court.”<sup>5</sup>

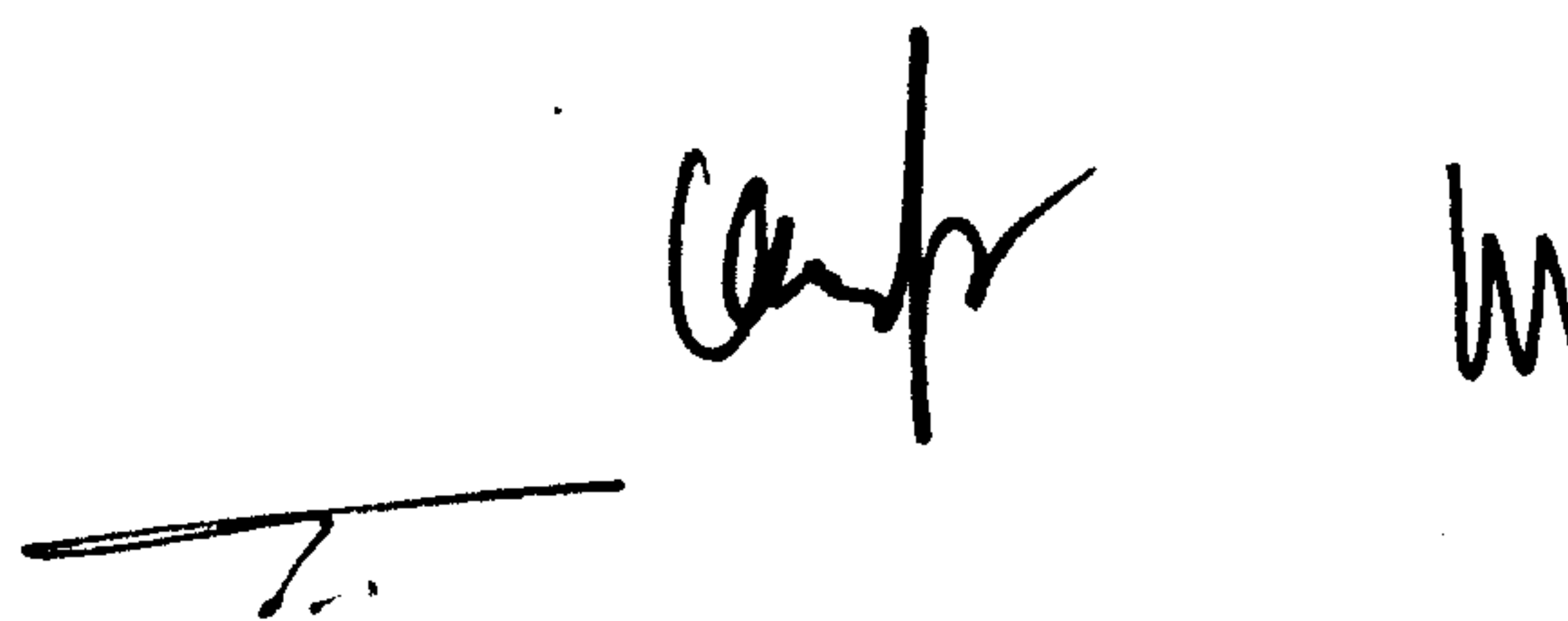
No medical certificate was attached to the aforesaid **Justification, etc.** Furthermore, her assertion that she could not remember whether she has personally appeared before the Clerk of Court of this Division, as regards her three (3) previous travels, while not believable, only underscores lack of genuine commitment to comply with the conditions imposed by the Court on the authority to travel granted to her.

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<sup>3</sup> Id, p. 2081

<sup>4</sup> Id, pp. 2085-2088

<sup>5</sup> Id, p. 2086

The bottom of the page features several handwritten marks. On the left, there is a horizontal line with a small mark underneath it. To the right of this line, there are two distinct handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is more complex and cursive, while the second is simpler and more stylized.

WHEREFORE, the prayer of accused Sonia V. Seville for the withdrawal of her travel bond of ₱60,000, covered by Official Receipt No. 6261209 dated April 21, 2017 is hereby denied. Said travel bond is hereby declared cancelled and forfeited in favor of the government, conformably with conditions 4 and 6 embodied in the Court's Resolution dated April 17, 2017.

SO ORDERED.

  
OSCAR O. HERRERA, JR.  
Chairperson

*We concur:*

  
MICHAEL FREDERICK L. MUSNGI  
Associate Justice

  
LORIFEL L. PAHIMNA  
Associate Justice