



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Sandiganbayan
 Quezon City

SIXTH DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,
 Plaintiff,

SB-15-CRM-0095

For: Violation of Section 3(e) of
 R.A. No. 3019

- versus -

Present:

ROLANDO C. ALONZO, ET AL.,
 Accused.

FERNANDEZ, SJ, J.
 Chairperson
MIRANDA, J. and
MUSNGI, J.*

Promulgated:

APR 25 2018 *[Signature]*

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RESOLUTION

FERNANDEZ, SJ, J.

This resolves the *Motion to Allow Travel Abroad* filed by accused Teresita C. Cometa¹ on April 2, 2018.

Accused Cometa asks this Court to issue an *Allow to Travel Abroad Order*, for her intended travel to Canada on April 28 to May 20, 2018.²

Accused Cometa claims to be an independent contractor under the Event Management Agreement she entered into with Backstage Ventures Ltd., and, as such, she is responsible for the coordination between Backstage Ventures Ltd. and the representatives of the Filipino artist booked for the show "Pusuan Mo si Vice Ganda sa Canada", to be held in Vancouver, Canada on May 6, 2018.³ She claims that she will handle the following tasks:

* Per Administrative Order No. 057-2018 dated January 29, 2018, Special Member in view of the vacancy in the Sixth Division.

¹ Dated April 2, 2018; Record, Vol. IX, pp. 198-226.

² Motion to Allow Travel Abroad dated April 2, 2018, p. 3; Record, Vol. IX, p. 200.

³ Motion to Allow Travel Abroad dated April 2, 2018, pp. 1-2; Record, Vol. IX, pp. 198-199.

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- a. Bring all promotional materials, *i.e.*, t-shirts, fans, wrist bands, for distribution during the show;
- b. Coordinate with Backstage Ventures Ltd. on room accommodations of all the artist and entourage;
- c. Handle the logistical requirements of the artist and entourage with regard to transport, renting of equipment and food provision during the show;
- d. Meet with concert producers in Ontario, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton for future Canada shows in September and November 2018, featuring local artist from the Philippines; and,
- e. Assist Backstage Ventures Ltd. in the post-production activities.⁴

According to accused Cometa, the said event management agreement is a means for her to earn extra income to augment her living expenses.⁵

Accused Cometa also intends to go to Ontario, Canada, to visit her sister's family, her nieces and grandnieces, whom she has not seen in five (5) years.⁶

During the hearing on April 10, 2018, the prosecution orally opposed the instant *Motion* on the following grounds:

- a. The accused is a flight risk considering that the amount involved in this case is more than 2.7 Billion Pesos;
- b. There is no urgent necessity for the travel since the accused will just be visiting her sister and nieces in Canada; and,
- c. The accused failed to prove that she will sustain irreparable damage or injury in case the Court would not allow her to travel.

RULING

For the reasons stated in the *Motion*, and over the objection of the prosecution, accused Cometa's *Motion for Leave to Travel Abroad* is granted.

⁴ Motion to Allow Travel Abroad dated April 2, 2018, p. 2; Record, Vol. IX, p. 199.

⁵ Motion to Allow Travel Abroad dated April 2, 2018, p. 2; Record, Vol. IX, p. 199.

⁶ Motion to Allow Travel Abroad dated April 2, 2018, p. 2; Record, Vol. IX, p. 199.

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The resolution containing the usual conditions of travel will be issued only upon the submission of the following documents:

- a. A duly notarized undertaking executed by her counsel, Atty. Steve M. Santillan, to guarantee to the Court the return to the Philippines of accused Cometa on the date stated in the *Motion*; and,
- b. The confirmed hotel bookings of the accused.


WHEREFORE, accused Teresita C. Cometa's *Motion to Allow Travel Abroad* is **GRANTED**.

SO ORDERED.


SARAH JANE T. FERNANDEZ
Associate Justice
Chairperson

WE CONCUR:


KARL B. MIRANDA
Associate Justice


MICHAEL FREDERICK L. MUSNGI
Associate Justice