



Republic of the Philippines  
**SANDIGANBAYAN**  
Quezon City

**SIXTH DIVISION**

**PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,**  
Plaintiff,

- versus -

**SB-17-CRM-0465**

**ANJANETTE H. SULIT,**

Accused.

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**O R D E R**

In today's proceedings, Atty. Leo Nicanor Blanco Mejorada, counsel for accused Anjanette H. Sulit, took up his Manifestation with Profound Apologies and explained his absence at the pre-trial scheduled last April 5, 2018.

Atty. Mejorada manifested that he tried to contact the Prosecutor's Office to relay the unavailability of the accused to attend said pre-trial. The accused was advised by her doctor to take a rest for one (1) week because of chest pains. Atty. Mejorada also informed the Court that he prepared an Urgent Motion for Resetting of the scheduled pre-trial on May 15, 2018 but the same was inadvertently not mailed by office aide Honey May Mancao because of pressure, other equally important workload.

The Court finds Atty. Mejorada's explanation/excuse unacceptable as he could have easily contacted the Division Clerk of Court to say that the accused would not be able to attend the scheduled pre-trial upon advise of the doctor. Likewise, the perfunctory justification of the failure to mail the urgent motion for resetting for the accused will not be tolerated by this Court.

Accordingly, Atty. Leo Nicanor Blanco Mejorada is hereby ordered to pay a fine of P1,000.00 with the stern warning that a repetition of the same act will merit a more serious sanction from this Court.

Also in today's proceedings, the accused with the assistance of counsel informed the Court that she is withdrawing her earlier plea of Not Guilty and would like to enter a plea of guilt.

The Court allowed the accused to plead guilty to the offense of failure to render accounts as defined and penalized under Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code.

The accused showed proof that she has returned the amount of Php92,476.13 to the Municipal Government of La Libertad, Zamboanga del Norte in fulfillment of the conditions set by the Prosecution (Certification dated February 19, 2018 issued by the Municipal Accountant and photocopy of Official Receipt from the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, Triplicate Official Receipt No. 4356969).

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Upon re-arraignment and reading of the Information in Criminal Case No. SB-17-CRM-0465 in English, a language known and understood by her, accused Anjanette H. Sulit, with the assistance of counsel, Atty. Leo Nicanor Blanco Mejorada, entered a plea of **GUILTY** to the offense charged in the Information.

The Prosecution conformed with the accused pleading guilty to the offense charged.

When queried, the accused and her counsel informed the Court that the accused fully understands the nature of the charge and consequences of her entering a plea of guilty to the offense charged in the information.

Having pleaded guilty to the offense of Violation of Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code, the accused is deemed to have admitted all the material facts therein.

Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code punishes the act of failure to render accounts by *prision correccional* in the minimum period or by a fine ranging from Php200.00 to Php6,000.00, or both, upon the discretion of the Court.

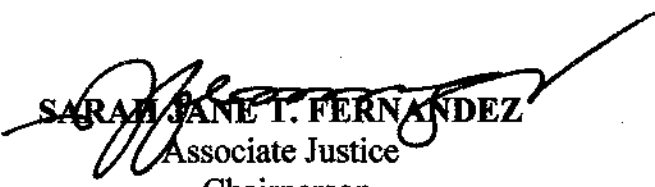
WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered, finding accused **Anjanette H. Sulit GUILTY** beyond reasonable doubt of the offense of Failure to Render Accounts under Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code.

She is hereby sentenced to pay a fine in the amount of Php6,000.00 payable within five (5) days from today.

No award of damages is made in view of the payment with the conformity of the Prosecution.

**SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN in open court this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2018, in Quezon City, Philippines.

  
**SARAH JANE T. FERNANDEZ**  
Associate Justice  
Chairperson

  
**KARI B. MIRANDA**  
Associate Justice

  
**MARYANN E. CORPUS-MAÑALAC\***  
Associate Justice

\* J. Mañalac sits in view of the vacancy, per A.O. No. 058-2018 dated January 28, 2018. (All Cases)