



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Sandiganbayan

Quezon City

SIXTH DIVISION

MINUTES of the proceedings held on October 11, 2018

PRESENT:

HON. SARAH JANE T. FERNANDEZ.....Associate Justice
HON. KARL B. MIRANDA.....Associate Justice
HON. KEVIN NARCE B. VIVERO.....Associate Justice

The following resolution was adopted:

SB-18-CRM-0054 to 0062 –

PEOPLE vs. MONTASIR M. SABAL

After accused Montasir M. Sabal entered a plea of “Not Guilty” to the nine (9) Informations in the present cases¹ on May 30, 2018, Atty. Virgilio Batalla, counsel for the accused, manifested that he has expressed to the prosecution the accused’ intention to enter into a plea bargaining agreement.² Subsequently, the parties informed the Court that the accused has submitted a request for plea bargaining with the Office of the Special Prosecutor,³ and later, that said request was submitted for the approval of the Ombudsman.⁴ The parties then filed their *Joint Motion to Approve Plea-Bargaining Agreement*.⁵

It appearing that the Special Prosecutor and the Ombudsman have given their consent,⁶ in accordance with Rule 116, Sec. 2 of the Rules of Court,⁷ this Court resolves to **GRANT** the parties’ *Joint Motion to Approve Plea-Bargaining Agreement*. As prayed for, this Court hereby **APPROVES** the parties’ proposed terms for the accused’ plea of guilty to violation of Sec. 7 of R.A. No. 3019 (SB-18-CRM-0054 to 0056) and violation of Sec. 8 of R.A. No. 6713 (SB-18-CRM-0057 to 0059), and the withdrawal of the Informations for Perjury under Art. 183 of the Revised Penal Code (SB-18-CRM-0060 to 0062).

¹ Record, pp. 85 and 85-A

² Order dated June 29, 2018; Record, p. 106

³ Order dated August 2, 2018; Record, p. 113

⁴ Order dated September 6, 2018

⁵ Dated and filed on October 8, 2018

⁶ Certification dated October 4, 2018 (attached to the *Joint Motion to Approve Plea-Bargaining Agreement* dated October 8, 2018)

⁷ **Sec. 2. Plea of guilty to a lesser offense.** – At arraignment, the accused, with the consent of the offended party and the prosecutor, may be allowed by the trial court to plead guilty to a lesser offense which is necessarily included in the offense charged. After arraignment but before trial, the accused may still be allowed to plead guilty to said lesser offense after withdrawing his plea of no guilty. No amendment of the complaint or information is necessary.

The hearing set on November 9, 2018 is maintained.

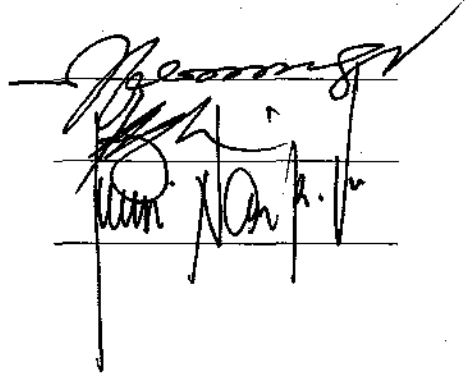
SO ORDERED.

APPROVED:

FERNANDEZ, SJ, J., *Chairperson*

MIRANDA, J.

VIVERO, J.

Handwritten signatures of the three individuals listed in the 'APPROVED' section. The signatures are written in black ink over three horizontal lines. The top signature is for Fernandez, SJ, J., the middle for Miranda, J., and the bottom for Vivero, J.