



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Sandiganbayan

Quezon City

SIXTH DIVISION

MINUTES of the proceedings held on March 27, 2019

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-17-CRM-1163 to 1178 –

PEOPLE vs. CECILIA SEARES-LUNA

On January 9, 2019, accused Cecilia Seares-Luna entered a plea of “Not Guilty” to the sixteen (16) Informations in the present cases.¹ Thereafter, on March 7, 2019, the prosecution and the accused, through counsel, filed the *Joint Motion to Approve Plea-Bargaining Agreement*.²

It appearing that the Special Prosecutor and the Ombudsman have given their consent,³ in accordance with Rule 116, Sec. 2 of the Rules of Court,⁴ this Court resolves to GRANT the parties’ said *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-17-CRM-1163 to 1170), and the withdrawal of the Informations for Perjury under Art. 183 of the Revised Penal Code (SB-17-CRM-1171 to 1178). The hearing set on April 3, 2019 is maintained.

The Court NOTES the accused’ *Compliance*.⁵

SO ORDERED.

¹ Record, pp. 499-502

² Dated March 1, 2019

³ Portions of the *Memorandum* dated January 22, 2019 (attached to the *Manifestation [Re Joint Motion to Approve Plea Bargaining Agreement]* dated March 22, 2019 and filed on March 25, 2019)

⁴ **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.

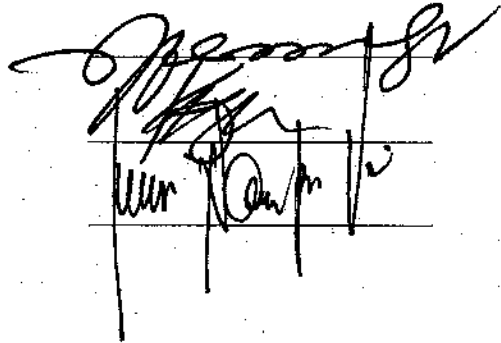
⁵ Dated and filed on March 20, 2019

APPROVED:

FERNANDEZ, SJ, J., *Chairperson*

MIRANDA, J.

VIVERO, J.

Handwritten signatures of Fernandez, SJ, J., Miranda, J., and Vivero, J. on a grid background. The signatures are written in black ink and are positioned to the right of the printed names. The signature for Fernandez, SJ, J. is the largest and most prominent, followed by Miranda, J., and Vivero, J. below it.