

Republic of the Philippines
SANDIGANBAYAN
Quezon City

SECOND DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,
Plaintiff,

Crim. Case No.
SB-21-CRM-0005

versus

ROMEO DUMLAO LONZANIDA,
Accused.

June 10, 2022

X-----X

DECISION

Accused Romeo Dumlao Lonzanida is charged before this Court with the offense of ***Failure of Accountable Officer to Render Accounts***, defined and penalized under ***Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code***, under an ***Information*** dated March 19, 2018, the accusatory portion of which reads:

“That on 01 March 2010, or sometime prior or subsequent thereto, in San Antonio Zambales, Philippines and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, the above-named accused Romeo Dumlao Lonzanida, a high-ranking public officer, being then the Municipal Mayor of San Antonio, Zambales, and as such, he received a cash advance on 17 December 2009 for payment of Intelligence expenses amounting to Php275,000.00, for which he is accountable to liquidate, committing the offense in relation to his office, did then and there, willfully, unlawfully and feloniously fail to liquidate and render an account of his cash advance at the end of the year it was granted or on 31 December 2009 as required under Commission on Audit (COA) Circular No. 97-002 and continued to do so within a period of two months from 31 December 2009, to the damage and prejudice of the government and of public interest.”

Accused Lonzanida was arraigned today through partial videoconferencing and he appeared remotely from the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) where he is presently confined.

Upon being arraigned, accused Lonzanida, assisted by counsel Atty. Rene C. Orallo II, who appeared in Court, after being informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, the ***Information*** having been read to him in open court, pleaded guilty to the charge.

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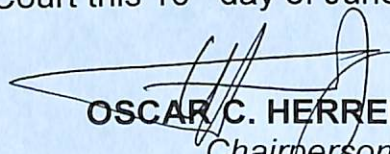
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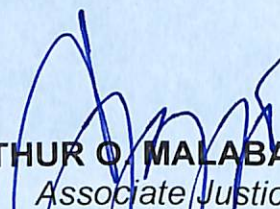
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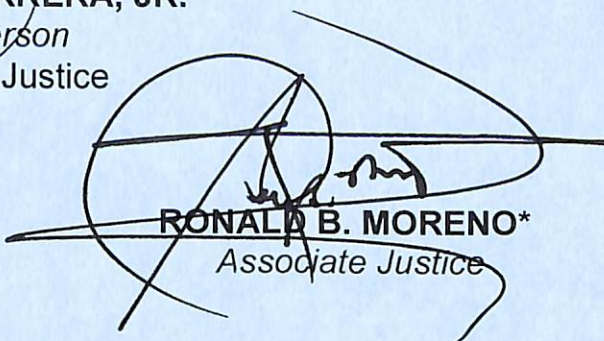
WHEREFORE, the Court finds accused Romeo Dumlaog Lonzanida guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the offense of *Failure of Accountable Officer to Render Accounts*, defined and penalized *Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code*, and is hereby sentenced to pay a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). He is also found civilly liable to pay to the Philippine Government the amount of Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (P275,000.00).

SO ORDERED.

Given in open Court this 10th day of June 2022, Quezon City, Philippines.


OSCAR C. HERRERA, JR.
Chairperson
Associate Justice

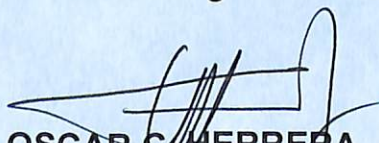

ARTHUR O. MALABAGUIO
Associate Justice


RONALD B. MORENO*
Associate Justice

**Sitting as Special Member per Administrative Order No. 129-2022 dated June 10, 2022*

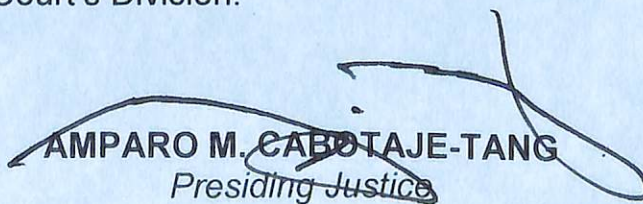
ATTESTATION

I attest that the conclusions in the above decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.


OSCAR C. HERRERA, JR.
Chairperson
Associate Justice

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution and the Division Chairman's Attestation, it is hereby certified that the conclusions in the above decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.


AMPARO M. CABOTAJE-TANG
Presiding Justice