REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Sandiganbayan Quezon City

FIFTH DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,

Plaintiff,

Case No. SB-20-CRM-0024 to 0033

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For: Violation of Art. 217 of the Revised

Penal Code

- versus -

Case No. SB-20-CRM-0034 to 0043

For: Violation of Art. 218 of the Revised

Penal Code

WILSON MACMOD NANDANG,

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Accused.

JUDGMENT

At today's hearing, Dir. Ma. Christina T. Marallag-Batacan and Pros. Cherry F. Laguting appeared for the prosecution while Atty. Sarah D. Soriano-Hermida appeared for the accused. Accused Wilson Macmod Nandang was also present in Court.

Pross. Laguting informed the Court that the plea bargain of accused Nandang was approved by the Ombudsman. On record is a Manifestation and Motion filed by the prosecution, praying that the Informations for Malversation of Public Funds penalized under Article 217 of the Revised Penal Code in Criminal Cases No. SB-20-CRM-0024 to 0033 be withdrawn after the accused enters a plea of guilty for Failure of Accountable Officer to Render Accounts penalized under Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code in Criminal Cases No. SB-20-CRM-0034 to 0043.

Atty. Hermida joined the prosecution's motion and moved that the earlier pleas of not guilty be withdrawn in these ten (10) counts of Failure of Accountable Officer to Render Accounts penalized under Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code.

Accused was apprised of the consequences of the Court's granting this motion and upon re-arraignment in Criminal Cases No. SB-20-CRM-0034 to 0043, accused Nandang entered a plea of "Guilty" to the said charges. Let the plea of "Guilty" be entered into the records of these cases.

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Considering his plea of guilty in these cases, he has admitted all the material allegations in the Informations therein, as this relates to Violation of Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code for Failure of Accountable Officer to Render Accounts. Therefore, the Court renders judgment on WILSON MACMOD NANDANG, as he is found GUILTY BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT in these cases and is ordered to pay a fine of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 5,000.00) for each of these ten (10) cases.

Moreover, the prosecution's motion to withdraw Informations in Criminal Cases No. SB-20-CRM-0024 to 0033 is **GRANTED**, and the said Informations are ordered **WITHDRAWN** and these considered **DISMISSED**.

The cash bond posted by accused Wilson M. Nandang in the amount of Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (PhP 460,000.00) under Official Receipt No. 8047584B dated September 25, 2020 is ordered **CANCELLED** and **RELEASED** to the accused, and the Hold Departure Order **LIFTED** upon payment by the accused of the abovementioned fine.

SO ORDERED.

Given in open court this 10th day of August 2022, in Quezon City, Philippines.

RAFAEL R. LAGOS

Chairperson

Associate Justice

MARIA THERESA V. MENDOZA-ARCEGA

Associate Justice

MARYANN E. CORPUS-MAÑALAC

Associate Justice

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ATTESTATION

I attest that the conclusion in the above Judgment was reached in consultation before the same was promulgated.

RAFAEL R. LAGOS Chairperson, Fifth Division

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution and the Division Chairperson's Attestation, it is hereby certified that the conclusion in the above Judgment was reached in consultation among the members of the Court's Fifth Division.

EFREN N DE LA CRUZ
Acting Presiding Justice*

RRL/Bev

^{*} Per A.O. No. 175-2022 dated August 8, 2022.