

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SANDIGANBAYAN
Quezon City

FOURTH DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, CRIM. CASE NO. SB-13-CRM-
Plaintiff, 0773, 0775, 0777 and 0779

- versus -

P/DIR. AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.,
ET AL.,

Accused.

Present:

MUSNGI, J., Chairperson
PAHIMNA, J., Associate Justice
ARCEGA, J., Associate Justice*

OCT 02 2023

Promulgated

RESOLUTION

MUSNGI, J.:

The Court resolves the *Motion for Reduction of Bail* filed by accused Eulito Fuentes. He claims that the demurrers to evidence filed by him in SB-13-CRM-0772 and SB-13-CRM-0776 were granted while the demurrers to evidence in SB-13-CRM-0773, 0775, 0777, and 0779 were denied. He asserts that he has shown throughout the proceedings that he is not a flight risk because he faithfully attended all the hearings. He prays that his bail be reduced by at least fifty percent (50%) and the same be released to him immediately.

In its *Comment/Opposition*, the prosecution argues that accused Fuentes failed to provide a good cause to reduce his bail pursuant to Section 20 of Rule 114 of the Rules of Court. The prosecution avers that accused Fuentes' claim that he is not a flight risk is not enough considering that his attendance is the very condition of his bail. Moreover, the denial of his demurrers to evidence in SB-13-CRM-0773, 0775, 0777, and 0779 allegedly shows the weight of the evidence against him.

Ruling

Section 20, Rule 114 of the Rules of Court provides that:

* Sitting as Special Member per Administrative Order No. 228-2023 dated 26 September 2023.

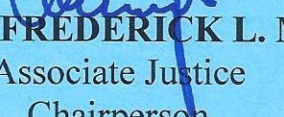
Section 20. Increase or reduction of bail. — After the accused is admitted to bail, the court may, upon good cause, either increase or reduce its amount. When increased, the accused may be committed to custody if he does not give bail in the increased amount within a reasonable period. An accused held to answer a criminal charge, who is released without bail upon filing of the complaint or information, may, at any subsequent stage of the proceedings and whenever a strong showing of guilt appears to the court, be required to give bail in the amount fixed, or in lieu thereof, committed to custody. (Emphasis added)

The Court finds that accused Fuentes has not shown good cause for the reduction of his bail. The mere allegation that he is not a flight risk is insufficient to guarantee his attendance in the subsequent court proceedings for the presentation of defense evidence. The Court also finds that his bail in the amount of Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Pesos (PhP690,000.00) remains reasonable.

WHEREFORE, in light of the foregoing, the *Motion for Reduction of Bail* is hereby **DENIED**.

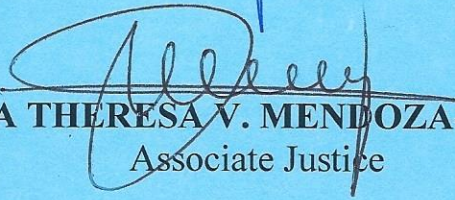
SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines.


MICHAEL FREDERICK L. MUSNGI
Associate Justice
Chairperson

We concur:

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LORIFEL LACAP PAHIMNA
Associate Justice


MARIA THERESA V. MENDOZA-ARCEGA
Associate Justice