



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Sandiganbayan
QUEZON CITY

SEVENTH DIVISION

MINUTES of the proceedings held on December 12, 2023.

Present:

MA. THERESA DOLORES C. GOMEZ-ESTOESTA ----- Chairperson
ZALDY V. TRESPESES ----- Associate Justice
GEORGINA D. HIDALGO ----- Associate Justice

The following resolution was adopted:

CRIMINAL CASE NOS. SB-16-CRM-0173 TO 0178

PEOPLE v. RODOLFO G. VALENCIA, ET AL.

Before the Court are the following:

1. Accused Janet Lim Napoles' "**DEMURRER TO EVIDENCE** (Without Leave of Court)" dated November 13, 2023; and
2. The prosecution's "**OPPOSITION** to Demurrer to Evidence (Without Leave of Court) dated November 13, 2023 filed by accused Janet Lim Napoles" dated December 6, 2023.

It will be recalled that when accused Janet Lim Napoles' Demurrer to Evidence was heard on November 21, 2023,¹ the prosecution moved, and her counsel agreed, to submit the said Demurrer to Evidence for resolution after all the accused have presented their evidence. This is pursuant to Section 8, Rule VII of the 2018 Revised Internal Rules of the Sandiganbayan, which provides:

Section 8. Demurrer to Evidence. – The filing of a demurrer to evidence shall be governed by Section 23, Rule 119 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, and shall be resolved or decided within forty-five (45) calendar days from its submission. **However, where a case involves several accused, and one or some of the accused did not file such**

¹ Order dated November 21, 2023, *Records*, Vol. 19, pp. 471-473.

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demurrer, the demurrer may be resolved or decided simultaneously or jointly with the main decision after the presentation of evidence for the other accused, for the orderly disposition of the case.

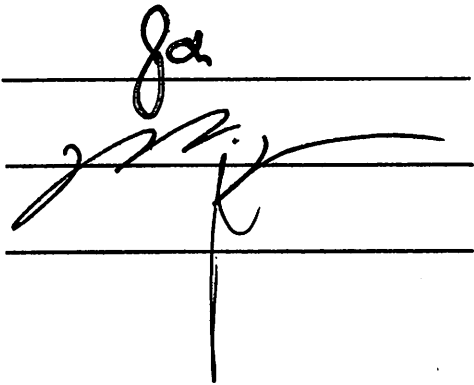
Accused Napoles' co-accused currently are in the process of presenting their respective evidence. In the interest of the orderly disposition of these cases, and as agreed by the parties, accused Napoles' Demurrer to Evidence, as well as the prosecution's Opposition thereto, shall be submitted for resolution jointly with the main decision after the presentation of evidence for the other accused.

SO ORDERED.

GOMEZ-ESTOESTA, J., Chairperson

TRESPESES, J.

HIDALGO, J.

Three horizontal lines with handwritten signatures. The first line has a signature that appears to be 'Ja'. The second line has a signature that appears to be 'J. Trespeses'. The third line has a signature that appears to be 'J. Hidalgo'.