

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 387, July 12, 1976]

**EXONERATING CITY TREASURER FLORENTINO A. CORBO OF
MANDAUE CITY**

This refers to the administrative case filed by residents of Tuburan, Cebu, against Florentino A. Corbo City Treasurer of Mandaue City, for alleged immorality.

The case stemmed from a letter-complaint filed with the Bureau of Public Schools by residents of the municipality of Tuburan, Cebu, against Areopagita Armas, a public school teacher at the Tuburan Central School, Tuburan District I, for allegedly "committing adulterous relation openly with a family man Florentino Corbo, presently Acting City Treasurer of Mandaue City, Cebu." The Department of Finance, which was furnished a copy of the complaint, advised respondent thereof. Respondent vehemently denied the charge which was investigated by an investigating committee created for the purpose.

The investigating body set the hearing of the case on January 17 to 21, 1972. On January 17, 1972, respondent, with his counsel, appeared and manifested his readiness to proceed with the hearing, but none of the numerous complainants nor their counsel of record appeared notwithstanding due notices to them. Respondent moved for dismissal of the case against him for lack of interest on the part of the complainants and their counsel as shown by their absence, but the committee denied the motion to dismiss and reset the hearing to January 19, 1972, in order to allow sufficient time for the service of notices. Written notices, in telegraphic form, were sent to several complainants and their counsel as well as to Miss Armas. On January 19, 1972, when the hearing was resumed, not one of the complainants nor their counsel appeared, but Miss Armas was present. The respondent, through his counsel, instead of asking for the dismissal of the case for lack of interest on the part of complainants, chose to present evidence in his behalf with a view to clearing his name and reputation both as a private citizen and as a public official from any cloud of suspicion.

The respondent presented as his first witness, Atty. Filemon Mendoza, who testified as follows: that during the very long period of his association with the respondent, he knew him to be of good moral character and standing in Tuburan when the latter was then its municipal treasurer up to his transfer to Mandaue City; that when he was Chief of Police of Tuburan, there was never any instance that the respondent was brought to his office on a criminal charge; that, likewise, he knew Miss Armas to be of good moral character and standing in the community; that the charge that respondent is living in concubinage with her is not only false but also ridiculous because his wife and Miss Armas are co-teachers in the Tuburan Central Elementary School, with adjoining classrooms, and his wife never saw any immoral behavior of Miss Armas.