

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 187, November  
17, 1969 ]**

**REMOVING MR. JUAN BAYUGA FROM OFFICE AS MUNICIPAL  
JUDGE OF FLORA, APAYAO-KALINGA**

This case stems from the complaint filed by the spouses Mateo Cascayan and Angela Cascayan of Bo. Tacang, Flora, Apayao-Kalinga against Municipal Judge Juan Bayuga of Flora, Apayao-Kalinga charging the latter with oppression and abuse of power, and ignorance of the law. The charges were formally investigated by District Judge Lauro S. Esteban.

On June 16, 1966, while said spouses were working on their portion of Lot No. 1247, situated at Bo. Tacang, Flora, Apayao-Kalinga (formerly Mt. Province), a certain Rodolfo Respicio and a companion, arrived and began plowing the same portion of the land being worked on by the spouses. The spouses asked Respicio and his companion to stop working but the latter replied that the land belonged to Mrs. Digna Bayuga, wife of respondent. The next day, the complainants were arrested and brought before the respondent who told them to give up possession of the land because the same belonged to his wife who had bought it from one Angel Guillermo. When the complainants refused respondent's demand, the latter scolded them and ordered them incarcerated in the municipal jail of Flora.

On June 24, 1966, Criminal Case No. 67, People of the Philippines versus Mateo Cascayan and Angela Balalio for Grave Coercion, was filed by one Eulogio Agcaoili of the Philippine Constabulary before the respondent's court based on the affidavits of Rodolfo Respicio and Fidelio Guzman. The affidavits were subscribed before the respondent on the same day, June 24, and the warrant of arrest was issued by the respondent also on June 24, 1966. On July 4, 1966, the complainants were released on bail.

The hearings of the case against the complainants were postponed for several times until finally, without respondent conducting a preliminary investigation, the accused were arraigned on December 21, 1966.

At the arraignment, Mateo Cascayan pleaded guilty to the charge of Grave Coercion while Angela Cascayan pleaded not guilty. Before the arraignment, however, respondent issued an order disqualifying himself from trying the case, but upon a joint motion for reconsideration filed by the prosecuting officer and the representative of the accused, one Luis Balbas, requesting the respondent to try the case, respondent reconsidered his own order with a reservation that the parties should feel free to ask for respondent's disqualification at any stage of the trial. On December 21, 1966, the case was tried and terminated. The sentence in the case of Mateo Cascayan who pleaded guilty to the crime charged was held in abeyance until December 27, 1966.