

**[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 186, November
13, 1969]**

**SUSPENDING MR. SANTIAGO CATANE FROM OFFICE AS CITY
JUDGE OF OZAMIS CITY**

This is an administrative case against City Judge Santiago Catane of Ozamis City for (1) falsification of public documents; (2) wilful neglect in the performance of official duties; and (3) ignorance of the law and partiality. The case was formally investigated by Judge Geronimo R. Marave of the Court of First Instance of Misamis Occidental.

The Secretary of Justice found respondent blameless of the charge of ignorance of the law and partiality, since the latter's order dated April 17, 1968, allowing complainant Cruz Limbaring, who was the accused in Criminal Case No. 5879 (for slight physical injuries), to file a motion for reconsideration of the judgment dated January 18, 1968, before its promulgation on August 17, 1963, was more of an irregularity in procedure than ignorance of the law and the fact that he stowed the decision to the complaining witness before the promulgation was not sufficient proof of partiality.

The evidence discloses, however, that respondent periodically certified, among other things, for the purpose of collecting his salaries from January 1967 to November 1966, that he had decided within ninety (90) days all civil and criminal cases submitted to him for decision or determination; and that at the time he made the certification the following cases submitted to him for decision were unacted upon for a period ranging from six (6) months to more than six (6) years counted from the dates they were actually submitted for decision:

1. Criminal Case No. 6141 (OZ-541) entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Diego Palomares et al." for serious physical injuries with permanent deformity;
2. Criminal Case No. 5879 (OZ-588) entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Cruz Limbaring" for slight physical injuries;
3. Civil Case No. 531 (OZ-157) entitled "Emilio Documento et al. vs. Tito Daaca et al." for collection of money with damages;
4. Criminal Case No. 3055 (OZ-420) entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Santos Maata" for murder;
5. Criminal Case No. 3056 (OZ-4-91) entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Santos Maata" for frustrated murder;
6. Criminal Case No. 3057 entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Santos Maata" for attempted homicide;