

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 39, March 29, 1967 ]**

**REMOVING MR. AMANDO G. LAZARO FROM OFFICE AS  
MUNICIPAL JUDGE OF BALUNGAO, PANGASINAN**

This is an administrative case against Municipal Judge Amando G. Lazaro of Balungao, Pangasinan, who is charged with having approved a falsified bail bond in Criminal Case No. 610 of his court. The case was investigated by the District Judge.

The records show that one Irineo Pimentel was charged with the crime of robbery in Balungao, Pangasinan. For his provisional release, a bail bond was filed, subscribed and sworn to before respondent on June 22, 1961, and approved by him on the same date. The bail bond offered as security consisted of several parcels of land supposedly owned by Samuel Imbuido, Camilo Ducusin, Miguel Fajardo, Aniceto Landingin and Teodoro Salvador, allegedly all of San Fabian, Pangasinan. Criminal Case No. 610 was then forwarded to the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan (at Tayug) for further proceedings, and when the initial hearing was set for March 1963, the sheriff's office was ordered by the court to notify the bondsmen to produce the accused.

A deputy sheriff went to San Fabian to notify the bondsmen, but when he confronted the persons mentioned in the bail bond as bondsmen, Imbuido and Ducusin denied having signed the bail bond or of even being property owners. Fajardo's and Landingin's participation as bondsmen was also discredited by their respective wives who stated that their signatures appearing in the bail bond were forged. The fifth, supposed bondsman, Toribio (not Teodoro as appearing in the bond) Salvador, was not contacted because he lived at a distant barrio near the mountains, but a former mayor of San Fabian who personally knew Salvador's signature told the deputy sheriff that the signature on the bond was a forgery.

The Court, convinced that a serious irregularity had been committed, conducted an investigation and ordered the Provincial Fiscals office to file the corresponding administrative charge or charges against respondent.

During the formal hearing, Imbuido, Ducusin and Fajardo testified, as reported in the sheriff's return, that they did not sign the bail bond; that they did not know the accused Pimentel; that Imbuido and Ducusin were not property owners; that the property allegedly offered by Fajardo as collateral was not owned by him. The deputy sheriff who served the notice of the hearing was also presented and confirmed the statement in his return.

Respondent in his defense maintains that one Atty. Mohamito Libunao, who is well known to him, approached him in the company of certain persons who represented themselves as Imbuido, Ducusin, Fajardo, Landingin and Salvador and proffered an already prepared bail bond; that after inquiry as to their identities, respondent