

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 85, September 10, 1967]

SUSPENDING MR. JAVIER ARIOSAS FROM OFFICE AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

This refers to four (4) administrative cases filed against Provincial Governor Javier Ariosa of Zamboanga del Sur, to wit: Administrative Case No. I, for oppression and serious misconduct in office filed by Mayor Maulod Pausa of Siay, Zamboanga del Sur; Administrative Case No. II, for oppression and grave misconduct in office filed by the same mayor; Administrative Case No. III, for oppression and serious misconduct in office filed by Councilor Edmundo Dalid of Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur; and Administrative Case No. IV, for dishonesty and serious misconduct in office filed by Jose Almazan Jr. of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. These cases were jointly investigated by Assistant Solicitor General Antonio A. Torres who found respondent guilty only in one (Adm. Case No. III), for oppression and serious misconduct in office, and, believing the preventive suspension undergone by respondent as sufficient punishment, recommended his reinstatement in office.

Administrative Case No. I — for Oppression and Serious Misconduct in Office

A review of the record shows that the evidence is wanting to sustain the allegation that respondent governor appropriated for his own personal benefit the twelve (12) hectares of reforestation project in Siay, Zamboanga del Sur, which the Emergency Employment Administration turned over to the province sometime in October 1964. However, it was established that the governor tolerated and abetted the indiscriminate utilization of convicted and detention prisoners in the various projects of the province in contravention of Section 1727 of the Revised Administrative Code, which constitutes serious misconduct in office.

Administrative Case No. II, for Oppression and Grave Misconduct in Office

The record discloses:

1. That the governor caused the release into his custody of a detention prisoner to work in his privately owned fishpond located at Muricay, Zamboanga del Sur;
2. That in some projects of the province, detention prisoners were made to work side by side with convicted criminals;
3. That respondent knew and tolerated the massive terroristic activities of convicted and detention prisoners on November 8 and 9, 1965 (eve and date of the general elections), wherein they, in groups, roamed the streets in several barrios and towns of that province and sowed terror upon the voters and sympathizers of the opposite political party; and