

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 89, October 23, 1967]

ADMONISHING MUNICIPAL JUDGE ULPIANO P. RAMAS AS NEW PIÑAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

Mr. Ulpiano P. Ramas, municipal judge of New Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte, is charged in three separate complaints with (1) bribery, maladministration of justice, abuse of authority, immorality, electioneering and suspicious strategy; (2) receiving his full salary for days when he was absent or incurred undertime; and (3) being responsible for the manhandling by irresponsible elements of complainant Pedong Sinulatan Luminding (a Subano), who was suspected of stealing respondent's camera, and fooling said complainant by obtaining from him, as compensation for a supposed license to solemnize Subano marriages issued by the respondent in his favor, the sum of ₱20 in addition to five valuable ancient China earthen jars which he had already given the respondent.

The charges were originally investigated by the Provincial Fiscal of Zamboanga del Norte at the request of the District Judge. On the basis of the record of investigation and the investigator's report, the Department of Justice found the first complaint, which was anonymous, without merit, but found respondent guilty under the second and third complaints of the following specific acts:

- (1) Appearing in court as private counsel without special permission from the District Judge;
- (2) Collecting his full salary for days when he was either absent or incurred undertime during his regular office hours in the morning; and
- (3) Inducing an ignorant non-Christian to give him his precious possessions in consideration of a worthless certificate issued by him.

Respondent disregard with the above inculpatory findings of the Department of Justice and asked for a reinvestigation of the case to establish his innocence, which was granted by this Office.

I concur in the Department's findings in the original investigation absolving respondent from the other charges. What remain to be disposed of, therefore, are the three specific counts where he was previously found guilty by the Department which later recommended the dismissal of two of them (counts 1 and 3) for insufficiency of evidence.

1. In the reinvestigation conducted by the District Judge of Zamboanga del Norte, upon authority of this Office, the respondent submitted a certificate issued by the then Presiding Judge (Patricio C. Ceniza) of the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga del Norte when Civil Case No. 353 thereof was filed on April 5, 1951,