

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 208, July 11, 1956]

**REMOVING MR. MARCELO T. MANGAHAS FROM OFFICE AS
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OF PANAMAO, LUUK, PATA AND
TONGKIL, SULU.**

This is an administrative case against Mr. Marcelo T. Mangahas, justice of the peace of Panamao, Luuk, Pata and Tongkil, Sulu, for alleged bribery and irregular conduct in connection with a theft case heard by him when he was acting justice of the peace of Indanan, Sulu.

The evidence for the complainant shows that on July 10, 1954, the Chief of Police of Indanan, Sulu, prepared a complaint for theft against Ramalan Salilaja and Salip Atari Harid at the instance of Jumlahani Jumlahani. On the same day the offended party engaged the services of complainant herein, Atty. Eugenio Akim, as private prosecutor, and they went to the house of respondent to file the complaint. Respondent examined Jumlahani and his witnesses and afterwards caused them to sign affidavits.

On July 13, 1954, Jumlahani and a companion went to respondent's house to inquire about his complaint as the police had not received a warrant for the arrest of the accused. Upon reaching the house, Jumlahani peeped through a slit in the door and saw Salip Harid giving money to respondent. Jumlahani heard Salip requesting respondent to take care of the accused (Salip's granddaughter and son) in the theft case. The incident was immediately reported by Jumlahani to Atty. Akim, and they went to respondent who charged them with filing a trumped-up case, which they denied. When respondent was reminded that the warrant of arrest had not been issued, he said that he would, subpoena the accused to appear on July 20, 1954, and if they failed to do so he would order their arrest. On July 20, 1954, Jumlahani and his lawyer appeared in court but the accused did not and yet respondent did not order their arrest.

In the meantime, or on July 14, 1954, a complaint for abduction with rape was filed with respondent by Ramalan Salilaja, one of the accused in the theft case, against Jumlahani, his brother Amilhusin and others. Warrants for their arrest were promptly issued by respondent and the accused had to file a bond of P12,000 each.

On July 29, 1954, Atty. Akim wrote to respondent asking why no warrant of arrest had been issued in the case for theft although the complaint had been filed "three weeks ago." Respondent failed to answer the inquiry. On August 12, 1954, respondent finally conducted a preliminary investigation of the theft case, which was dismissed on August 17, 1954, after respondent had a talk with Atty. Benjamin Abubakar, counsel for the accused, who informed him that the accused Ramalan and the offended party were relatives by marriage and were living in the same house.