

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 133, August 11, 1955]

EXONERATING MR. RUBEN M. VILLALUZ, ACTING CHIEF OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES OFFICE.

This is an administrative case against Mr. Ruben A. Villaluz, acting chief of the Motor Vehicles Office, for alleged maladministration, abuse of authority, incompetence, junketeering, immorality, dishonesty and persecution, which was investigated by a committee appointed for the purpose.

1. Under the charge of maladministration, it is alleged that the respondent signed the indorsement disapproving the application for appointment as honorary agent of one Teodoro C. Alegre but put his O.K. at the top left-hand side thereof without crossing out said indorsement, thereby putting his administrative officer in a quandary as to whether the application was approved or not; and that he appointed non-civil service eligibles to classified positions and ineligible persons as honorary agents of the Motor Vehicles Office to accommodate friends.

An examination of the record reveals that the respondent signed the indorsement of disapproval relying on complainant administrative officer that it was being disapproved only for the reason stated therein, to wit, that appointments of honorary agents had already been closed; and that when the respondent later indicated his approval on the upper left-hand corner of said indorsement for the purpose of finding out how complainant could reportedly fix up the matter if respondent would put his O.K. therein, he was not apprised by complainant of applicant's alleged bad record which he (complainant) know from the outset. It also appears that before recommending the appointment of non-civil service eligibles to classified positions and four honorary agents the respondent had studied carefully the respective qualifications of each and that he submitted the corresponding information sheets of the prospective appointees together with their proposed appointments to the Department Head who passed the same and approved all the appointments. In view thereof, respondent is absolved from the charge.

2. Respondent is also charged with abuse of authority in allegedly ordering the release, through the intervention of one Estelita Villanueva, of the licenses of drivers apprehended for motor vehicle law violations without taking into consideration the recommendations of the apprehending officers and complying with pertinent rules and regulations.

The record shows that the respondent approved the release of said drivers' licenses upon the recommendation of the investigator and the chief traffic officer of the Traffic Section, who are clothed with authority to conduct investigations and make the necessary recommendations regarding motor vehicle law violations. There is no showing that respondent had anything to do with, nor had knowledge of the steps taken in, the release of said drivers' licenses to the woman referred to, who