

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 51, August 05, 1954]

SUSPENDING FROM OFFICE HONORABLE GEDEON G. QUIJANO, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY.

This is an administrative case against Honorable Gedeon G. Quijano, provincial governor of Misamis Occidental, who is charged with wilful neglect of duty, abuse of authority and terrorism in a complaint filed by Atty. Casiano U. Laput dated January 8, 1954; and abuse of authority, grave threats and manhandling, in a separate complaint dated December 29, 1953, filed by Mr. Miguel P. Olivar.

On the charge of terrorism, the Special Investigator of this Office, Atty. Vicente O. Frias, made the following observations: "On the whole, there is no doubt that terrorism existed in the province of Misamis Occidental in the 1949 elections. Even the witnesses of the respondent - governor like Magdaleno Salinas tersely narrated the horrible atrocities and terroristic acts of the armed terrorists: the OCLUS (Ozamiz City Labor Union). Said he: 'My house, four window glasses were broken, Andres Sarsaba was hurt, Mariano Paculaba in Balatacan was injured, house of Jovito Mirafuentes was stoned and Francisco Morante was hurt by the OCLUS inside the polling place on the election day and that as a consequence of these atrocities Alfredo Kaamiño, Julio Mendez, Dr. Agustin Pagosara, Andres Sarsaba, Timoteo Rivera evacuated Tangub.' It would not be amiss to state here that this respondent's witness affirmed the testimony of witness Alfredo Kaamiño that he was terrorized to evacuate Tangub. Witness Pantaleon Cardenas, in similar vein, recalled the terroristic activities in said elections."

The respondent admitted the existence of terrorism in his province in said elections, but placed the blame on ex-Representative Villarín who was then a candidate for Congress. However, the witnesses for the complainant positively averred that they saw and heard the respondent intimidate and threaten with liquidation the leaders of the Nacionalista Party in said province. The simple denial by the respondent and the negative averments of his witnesses cannot and should not prevail over convincing and positive proof. I therefore find the respondent guilty of the charge of terrorism.

As regards the charge of wilful neglect of duty in that he failed to investigate the administrative complaint against Mayor Cosme Cabibil of Plaridel, Misamis Occidental, the records reveal that the respondent caused the investigation of Mayor Cabibil in compliance with the directive of this Office. He is therefore exonerated from this charge.

The charge that respondent took undue advantage of his position in promoting the application of his wife for a fishpond area in barrio Napiot, municipality of Baliangao, which was previously applied for by Mr. Patricio Atay has been, to some extent,