

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 116, May 01, 1950]

REPRIMANDING REGISTER OF DEEDS SOFRONIO M. FLORES OF ILOILO

This is an administrative case against Mr. Sofronio M. Flores, Register of Deeds of Iloilo, who stands charged with inefficiency in the discharge of his official duties.

It appears that on July 8, 1948, the General Land Registration Office called the attention of the respondent to the fact that his abstracts of collections for the months of July, 1947, to June, 1948, had not yet been received by that office and accordingly requested him to submit the same as soon as possible. This request was reiterated on August 16, 1948. On September 17, 1948, said office learned from the City Auditor of Iloilo that the abstracts corresponding to the period from July, 1946, to June 30, 1947, although already verified by the latter, were still kept in the office of the respondent and not mailed to the central office for no apparent reason whatsoever. It also learned that the respondent was not submitting to the auditor his monthly abstracts as they fell due but was allowing them to accumulate in his office. On September 30, 1948, the General Land Registration Office, besides informing him of the matters brought out by the city auditor, asked him to exert efforts to have the abstracts submitted for auditing purposes immediately after the end of each calendar month and not later than the fifth of the succeeding month and reminded him that his practice was in violation of accounting and auditing regulations. Abstracts for other months also fell due, and letters were likewise sent to him to forward them together with those previously called for. Said requests, however, remained unattended to until he was required to show cause why he should not be dealt with administratively.

It also appears that as of September 7, 1949, a total of 27 back reports—some of which even pertained to 1946—had not been received by the central office. The respondent was accordingly warned that failure on his part to submit them on or before September 30, 1949, would cause the institution of administrative proceedings for his removal from the service unless satisfactory reasons be given for his failure to do so.

On September 30, 1949, the deadline for submitting the abstracts, the respondent informed the General Land Registration Office that the same had already been forwarded to it and at the same time submitted the following explanation: That owing to the last war the records, documents, titles, etc., of his office were in disorder after liberation; that as the office was leaking during rainy days, they had to move from one place to another in order to save important papers; that after liberation there was a mad rush for the reconstitution of records and, with his limited personnel, they had to give preference to the immediate need of the public, such as the issuance of titles to facilitate mortgages and other transactions, in line with the policy of the Government to enhance the rehabilitation and reconstruction