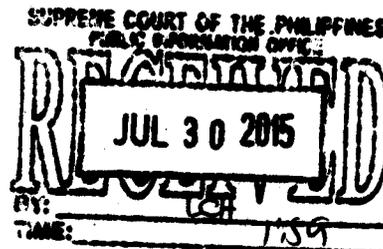




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUPREME COURT¹
Manila

SECOND DIVISION¹

NOTICE



Sirs/Mesdames:

Please take notice that the Court, Second Division, issued a Resolution dated 13 July 2015 which reads as follows:

A.M.No. 15-05-152-RTC – (*Dropping from the Rolls of Ferdinand B. Ico, Court Stenographer III, Branch 21, Regional Trial Court, Malolos City, Bulacan*)

The records of the Employees' Leave Division (*ELD*), Office of Administrative Services (*OAS*), Office of the Court Administrator (*OCA*), show that Ferdinand B. Ico (*Ico*) did not submit his Bundy Cards from August 2014 and the months thereafter. Thus, he has been absent without official leave since August 1, 2014.

A letter, dated February 23, 2015, was sent by the OAS, OCA, to Ico at his last known address on record directing him to submit his lacking DTRs, otherwise, the OCA would recommend that his name be dropped from the rolls effective August 1, 2014 for his continuous absence without approved leave. A copy of the said letter was also sent to his court station, coursed through Judge Ma. Theresa M. Arcega.

To date, Ico has not reported for work.

Verification from the Employees' Welfare and Benefits Division (*EWBD*), OAS, OCA discloses that Ico has not filed an application for optional retirement. According to the Personnel Division of the same office, he is still in active service. The records of the Docket and Clearance Division, Legal Office, OCA, on the other hand, reveal that there was no pending administrative case against him, but he was reprimanded with warning in A.M. No. P-09-2634. Based on the records of the Court Management Office, OCA, he is not an accountable officer.

OCA Recommendation

In its Report,¹ filed on June 9, 2015, the OCA recommended that Ico be dropped from the rolls effective August 1, 2014, for having been on absence without official leave; that his position be declared vacant; and that he be informed of his separation from the service or dropping from the rolls

¹ Rollo, pp. 1-3.

at his last known address at Blk. 33, Lot 14, Maunlad Homes, Mojon, Malolos City, Bulacan, the last known address appearing in his 201 File. It is added, however, that he would still be qualified to receive the benefits he was entitled to under the existing laws and to be reemployed in the government.

The Court's Ruling

The Court agrees with the recommendation of the OCA.

Section 63, Rule XVI of the Omnibus Rules on Leave, as amended by Memorandum Circular No. 13 S. 2007, provides:

Effect of Absence Without Approved Official Leave – An official or an employee who is continuously absent without an approved leave for at least thirty (30) working days shall be considered on absence without official leave (AWOL) and shall be separated from the service or dropped from the rolls without prior notice. xxxx

It is clear that the prolonged unauthorized absence of Ico causes inefficiency in the public service.² It should be remembered that the conduct and behavior of all court personnel are circumscribed with a heavy responsibility. Any act or omission on the part of all those involved in the administration of justice, which would violate the norm of public accountability and diminish or tend to diminish the faith of the people in the Judiciary, cannot be countenanced.³

By going on AWOL, Ico grossly disregarded and neglected the duties of his office. He failed to adhere to the high standards of public accountability imposed on all those in the government service.⁴

WHEREFORE, Ferdinand B. Ico, Court Stenographer III, Branch 21, Regional Trial Court, Malolos City, Bulacan, is hereby **DROPPED** from the service and his position is **DECLARED VACANT**.

² *Judge Florendo v. Cadano*, 510 Phil. 230, 235 (2005).

³ *Re: Absence Without Official Leave (AWOL) of Atty. Marilyn B. Joyas, Clerk of Court V, Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 16*, 555 Phil. 737, 740 (2007).

⁴ *Re: Dropping from the Rolls of Cornelio Reniette Cabrera, Utility Worker I, Municipal Trial Court in Cities, Branch 1, Lipa City*, 669 Phil. 142, 146 (2011).

Let a copy of this resolution be served upon him at his address appearing in his 201 file pursuant to Section 63, Rule XVI of the Omnibus Civil Service Rules and Regulations, as amended. (*Carpio J., on official leave, Del Castillo, J., designated Acting Chairperson and Peralta, J., designated Acting Member, per Special Order Nos. 2087 (Revised) and 2088, both dated July 1, 2015; Brion, J., on leave, Bersamin, J., designated Acting Member, per Special Order No. 2079, dated June 29, 2015*)

SO ORDERED.

Very truly yours,

MA. LOURDES Q. PERFECTO
 MA. LOURDES Q. PERFECTO
 Division Clerk of Court *by/ty*

HON. COURT ADMINISTRATOR
 Jose Midas P. Marquez (x)
 HON. DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR
 Raul B. Villanueva (x)
 Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino (x)
 Thelma C. Bahia (x)
 Legal Office (x)
 Court Management Office (x)
 Financial Management Office (x)
 Docket & Clearance Division (x)
 Office of Administrative Services (x)
 Office of the Court Administrator
 Supreme Court, Manila

FERDINAND B. ICO (reg)
 Block 33, Lot 14, Maunlad Homes
 Mojon, 3000 Malolos City, Bulacan

HON. PRESIDING JUDGE (reg)
 Regional Trial Court, Branch 21
 Malolos City, Bulacan

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ATTORNEY (x)
 OFFICE OF THE REPORTER (x)
 Supreme Court, Manila

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (x)
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 Supreme Court, Manila
 [for uploading pursuant to A.M. No. 12-7-1-SC]

Please notify the Court of any change in your address.
 A.M. No. 15-05-152-RTC. 07/13/15 (307)URES