

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 257, February 28, 1996]

**IMPOSING THE PENALTY OF DISMISSAL FROM THE SERVICE ON
REGION V REGIONAL DIRECTOR PILAR ANTE-HILARIO OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR FALSIFICATION OF PUBLIC
DOCUMENT**

This refers to the administrative case filed by Mr. Ramon Rocha Labayo against Region V Regional Director Pilar Ante-Hilario of the Department of Tourism for alleged falsification of official document, her personal Data Sheet (PDS, Civil Service Form No. 212), in violation of Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code.

In its resolution, the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (Commission) found the following:

"The only issue then to be resolved is whether or not respondent Pilar Ante Hilario is guilty of falsification of her PDS submitted on January 1, 1989 by stating therein that she earned her BSC from Republic Colleges.

Well settled is the rule that in an administrative case, only substantial evidence is necessary to hold respondent liable of the charge against her. In this case, the Commission finds substantial evidence to hold complainant (respondent) liable for misdeclaration in her Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form No. 212) which she filed on January 1, 1989 that she earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the Republic Colleges, Guinobatan, Albay. The preponderance of evidence supports the allegations of complainant that she falsely declared such fact.

At the time she filled up CSC Form No. 212, her only basis was the Transcript of Records which upon perusal by this Commission appears to be not authentic as it did not have the official seal of the School. Her claim that she, in good faith, believed that she graduated from the Republic Colleges has no basis at all because if it were so, then the transcript should have the official indicating therein that she has indeed graduated from the said school. The preponderance of evidence negate such claim of good faith on her part. It would have been a different matter if the transcript of records indicated the fact of her graduation.

The circumstances occurring after January 1989, more particularly the issuances of the Registrar of Republic Colleges, only bolster our opinion that respondent really misdeclared her educational background. Both Efren Oliva, former Registrar of Republic Colleges and Ester P. Flores, Acting Registrar of the School certified on 19 June 1989 and 11 September 1989 respectively, that respondent did not graduate from