

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 460, December 29, 1982]

SUSPENDING MR. SALVADOR G. CAJOT FROM OFFICE AS ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL FISCAL OF CAMARINES SUR

This is an administrative case filed by Mrs. Clara Siguenza dela Vega against Assistant Provincial Fiscal Salvador G. Cajor of Camarines Sur for alleged slander, violation of lawyer's oath, and violation of Constitution and Civil Service rules and regulations. The charges were investigated by the Ministry of Justice.

The case stemmed from the administrative complaint file by Mrs. Dela Vega with the Ministry of Justice on June 23, 1982. Complainant alleged that since 1957 and up to the filing of the complaint, respondent fiscal, without the requisite authorization from either the Ministry of Justice or the Office of the President, has been serving as Manager of the Philippine Loans and Credit Corporation (PHILCOR), a private Concern engaged in the business of extending small loans in the sum of from P100 to P300. Complainant charged that respondent's actuation constitutes a violation of the Constitution and Civil Service rules and regulations.

Complainant further averred that respondent slandered her by calling her dishonest in public for her refusal to return the alleged overpayment of P500 she received from respondent's cashier-son, Electo Salvador Cajot , Jr.

Likewise, complainant claimed that respondent violated his oath as a lawyer not to make any groundless or false suit nor give aid or consent to the same by falsely charging her, through his cashier-son, with theft and/or estafa before the Naga City Fiscal's Office.

In his answer, respondent alleged, among others, that (a) he was already PHILCOR Manager long before his appointment as 4th Assistant Provincial Fiscal of Camarines Sur; (b) he never concealed in his information sheet or bio-data submitted on several occasions to the Ministry of Justice the fact that he is PHILCOR Manager; (c) PHILCOR was organized principally to assist small government employees obtain loans with legal rate of interest rather than from "loan sharks" who usually charge 10 to 20 per cent interest a month; (d) he only repaired to the PHILCOR office every after 5:00 P M to check the collection report of the cashier, but he seldom went thereto after a treasurer has been appointed; and (e) if he really used government time in managing the PHILCOR, he could not have consistently earned an efficiency rating of "Very Satisfactory".

Respondent also took exception to the charge that he carelessly and maliciously slandered complainant by publicly charging her with dishonesty. According to respondent, if said imputation were true, complainant should have filed a libel case in court to vindicate her honor and integrity. Respondent further insisted that the filing of the theft case against complainant by respondent's son is but a valid