

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 247, November 02, 1970]

EXONERATING MR. SANTOS B. RASALAN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, PHILIPPINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

This is an administrative case against Mr. Santos B. Rasalan, Deputy Commissioner, Philippine Fisheries Commission, filed by the president of the Inter-Island Deep Sea Fishing Association, Inc. The complaint charges:

1. That one Arsenio Rasalan, son of respondent, and a certain Willie Quetulio interceded in behalf of a group of fishing boat operators known as the Ignacio Brothers and Mrs. Purificacion Yambao for the dismissal of the fishery cases pending against them before the said Fisheries Commission;
2. That P40,000 was allegedly given by the Ignacio Brothers and Mrs. Purificacion Yambao to Willie Quetulio in consideration for the dismissal of said cases;
3. That another son of respondent was given a Toyota de Luxe car as gift by the Ignacio Brothers;
4. That in consideration for not getting samples of dynamited fishes, from P2 to P5 per "bañera" was collected by certain officers of the Fisheries Commission;
5. That respondent failed to implement the provisions of Republic Act 428, as amended by Republic Act 1535, requiring on-the-spot examination of fish samples wherever they may found;
6. That sampling teams were re-organized and replaced with Ilocano friends of respondent;
7. That sampling teams did not take samples of the fishes known as "dalagang bukid" caught in big quantities and instead took samples of fishes caught by trawlers; and
8. That 2,200 tons of dynamited fishes were landed between August and September 1966 in Navotas fish market alone.

A committee, headed by the Undersecretary for Natural Resources, was formed by the Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to investigate the above charges, and in its report, the committee unanimously recommended the dismissal of all the charges for insufficiency of evidence. After going over the records of the case, I concur in the findings and recommendation of the investigating committee.

The records do not reveal any direct and categorical statement nor directive of