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[A.M. No. SCC-10-14-P (Formerly OCA IPI No. 09-31-SCC-P), November 12, 2019]

JUDGE BENSAUDI A. ARABANI, JR., PETITIONER, VS. RAHIM A. ARABANI, JUNIOR PROCESS SERVER, AND ABDURAJI G. BAKIL, UTILITY WORKER I, BOTH FROM SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, MAIMBUNG, SULU, RESPONDENTS.

[A.M. No. SCC-10-15-P (Formerly A.M. No. 06-3-03-SCC)]

JUDGE BENSAUDI A. ARABANI, JR., 4TH SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, MAIMBUNG, SULU, PETITIONER, VS. RODRIGO C. RAMOS, JR., CLERK OF COURT, 4TH SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, MAIMBUNG, SULU, RESPONDENT.

[A.M. No. SCC-11-17 (Formerly A.M. No. 10-34-SCC)]

CLERK OF COURT RODRIGO C. RAMOS, JR., PROCESS SERVER RAHIM A. ARABANI, AND UTILITY WORKER I ABDURAJI G. BAKIL, ALL OF 4TH SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, MAIMBUNG, SULU, AND UTILITY CLERK SHELDALYN[*] I. MAHARAN, 5TH SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, PATIKUL, SULU, PETITIONERS, VS. JUDGE BENSAUDI A. ARABANI, JR., 4TH SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURT, MAIMBUNG, SULU, RESPONDENT.

R E S O L U T I O N

PERLAS-BERNABE, J.:

Before the Court is the letter[1] dated June 20, 2019 of the surviving spouse of Rodrigo Ramos, Jr. (Rodrigo): (*a*) informing the Court that Rodrigo passed away on December 5, 2016, attaching therewith an original copy of the Philippine Statistics Authority authenticated Death Certificate[2] of Rodrigo; and (*b*) imploring the Court to reduce the penalty of **suspension of six (6) months and one (1) day without pay** meted on him in its Decision[3] dated February 21, 2017 in A.M. No. SCC-10-15-P to **fine** in view of his demise.

Jurisdiction over an administrative case is not lost by the demise of the respondent public official during the pendency of his case.[4] This is especially true when the respondent had already been given the opportunity to answer the complaint and substantiate his defenses,[5] as in this case, and the fact of his death has been reported to the Court only after a decision was rendered in the administrative case against him. Thus, the Court retains its jurisdiction either to pronounce the respondent official innocent of the charges or declare him guilty thereof because a