

THIRD DIVISION

[A.M. No. RTJ-12-2333 [Formerly OCA-I.P.I. No. 11-3721-RTJ], October 22, 2012]

**PROSECUTORS HYDIERABAD A. CASAR, JONALD E. HERNANDEZ,
DANTE P. SINDAC AND ATTY. JOBERT D. REYES,
COMPLAINANTS, VS. CORAZON D. SOLUREN, PRESIDING JUDGE
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 96, BALER, AURORA,
RESPONDENT.**

R E S O L U T I O N

MENDOZA, J.:

Before the Court is an administrative complaint against Judge Corazon D. Soluren (*Judge Soluren*) of the Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 96, Baler, Aurora.

In a Complaint,^[1] dated August 12, 2011, Assistant Provincial Prosecutors Hydierabad A. Casar, Jonald E. Hernandez, Dante P. Sindac and Atty. Jobert D. Reyes (*complainants*) of the Public Attorney's Office, Baler, Aurora, charged Judge Soluren with Gross Misconduct.

Complainants aver that on June 20 and 22, 2011 and July 19, 2011, Judge Soluren went to the Aurora Provincial Jail and conferred with the inmates including those who had pending cases before her sala. This was in contravention of Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) Circular No. 03-2010, dated January 12, 2010, which suspended the conduct of jail visitation and inspection by Executive Judges and Presiding Judges pending results of the re-examination of the provisions of A.M. No. 07-3-02-SC.

According to complainants, the purpose of Judge Soluren's visit was to persuade the prisoners into signing a letter addressed to then Chief Justice Renato C. Corona, calling for the dismissal of the administrative complaint filed against her by Atty. Juliet M. Isidro-Reyes, District Public Attorney, Baler, Aurora, and for the removal of Judge Evelyn Atienza-Turla as Presiding Judge of RTC, Branch 6, Baler, Aurora.

Attached to the complaint were: the certification^[2] issued by the Prison Guard Administrator as proof of Judge Soluren's unauthorized visits to the provincial jail and the affidavit^[3] executed by Dolores P. Sollano, her companion during the visits. Also presented was a subsequent handwritten letter^[4] signed by the detention prisoners admitting that they were not aware of the import of the letter to the Chief Justice due to lack of explanation by Judge Soluren. They wished to withdraw the same, not wanting to be a part of the conflict between Judge Soluren and the Public Attorney's Office of Baler, Aurora.

In her Comment,^[5] dated November 5, 2011, Judge Soluren admitted that she went