

THIRD DIVISION

[A. M. No. P-10-2837 (FORMERLY OCA I.P.I No. 07-2613-P), August 25, 2010]

PO2 PATRICK MEJIA GABRIEL, COMPLAINANT, VS. WILLIAM JOSE R. RAMOS, SHERIFF IV, REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 166, PASIG CITY, RESPONDENTS.

DECISION

BRION, J.:

Before the Court is the present administrative complaint for grave misconduct filed, on July 13, 2007,^[1] by PO2 Patrick Mejia Gabriel, (Gabriel) with the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), against William Jose R. Ramos, (Ramos), Sheriff IV, Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 166, Pasig City.

Acting on the complaint, the OCA required Ramos to comment.^[2] Ramos complied and filed his comment on September 6, 2007. Thereafter, the OCA submitted a Report (dated August 28, 2008)^[3] to the Court, whose relevant portions provide:

Complainant states that he is presently a member of the Philippine National Police and designated as Chief Investigator assigned at San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro.

According to the complainant on 10 May 2007 at around 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon at Barangay Calsapa, Municipality of San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro said respondent together with several persons, in conspiracy and on agreement with former Municipal Mayor Manuel Roxas Bae, entered the house of Ms. Adelaida Caeg Hael. Soon thereafter, two (2) pieces of Five Hundred (P500.00) bills were handed to Adelaida and Ariel Hael to vote for Mayoralty Candidate Homer Roxas Alumisin and other candidates listed in the yellow pages. The said vote buying incident was reported by Adelaida and Ariel Hael to San Teodoro Municipal Police Station, who both executed their respective Sworn Statements enclosed as Annexes "A" and "B" hereof. A case for Violation of Article 22, Section 261 (a) of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines was also filed against respondent together with his co-conspirators docketed as I.S. No. 07-12386 before the Prosecutor's Office of Oriental Mindoro attached as Annex "C".

In a COMMENT dated 9 August 2007, respondent alleges that the charges in the complaint are utterly false, malicious and intended to intimidate him from prosecuting cases of robbery as well as administrative charges against several policemen, including herein complainant for openly campaigning for a certain candidate during the election period.