

## EN BANC

**[ A.M. No. 02-9-580-RTC, January 23, 2003 ]**

### **RE: REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF CASES IN THE RTC, BRANCH 64, LABO, CAMARINES NORTE**

#### **R E S O L U T I O N**

##### **AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ, J.:**

On May 10, 2000, judicial audit and physical inventory was conducted in Branch 64, Regional Trial Court of Labo, Camarines Norte, presided over by Judge Amaro M. Meteoro.

In a Resolution dated July 1, 2002, the Court through the Third Division in A.M. No. 10858-Ret., resolved to approve, effective February 5, 2002, the application of Judge Meteoro for disability retirement under R.A. 910 but ordered the setting aside of the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) pending resolution of IPI-99-866-RTJ and IPI 02-1410-RTJ.<sup>[1]</sup>

On September 24, 2002, the Court received the Memorandum dated September 17, 2002 of Deputy Court Administrator Jose P. Perez with the endorsement of Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr. recommending approval thereof.

Based on the findings of the audit team, DCA Perez reports that there were:

1. Forty-five cases submitted for decision (twenty-five criminal cases and twenty civil cases) and fifteen cases with motions for resolutions. The subsequent monitoring showed that Judge Meteoro had decided only five cases (one criminal case and four civil cases) and three of the motions which resulted to their dismissal. The rest of the cases and motions have remained undecided and unresolved as of the end of the monitoring.
2. One hundred sixty-seven cases on trial (one hundred thirty-one criminal cases and thirty-one civil cases). At the end of the monitoring, seventeen criminal cases and seven civil cases were either dismissed or archived.
3. Seventeen cases for pre-trial conference, fifteen criminal cases and two civil cases. One criminal case was disposed at the end of monitoring.
4. Ninety-two<sup>[2]</sup> criminal cases set for arraignment. One was archived and two were dismissed.
5. Six cases with court orders for compliance by the parties. One criminal case was decided while two civil cases were dismissed.

6. Nine cases with proceedings held in abeyance. In one of these cases, Judge Meteoro voluntarily inhibited himself for the reason that the accused is the Clerk of Court of MCTC, Capalonga-Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte;
7. Twenty-five cases which were not further acted upon or without further setting despite the lapse of a considerable length of time. Two criminal cases and two civil cases were dismissed;
8. Fifty cases with warrants of arrest and five civil cases with summons. Prior to his retirement, Judge Meteoro and his OIC Clerk of Court were advised that these cases may be acted upon in accordance with Administrative Circular No. 7-A-92 dated June 21, 1993, regarding Guidelines in the Archiving of Cases. The monitoring disclosed that thirty-seven criminal cases were already archived. Two of these criminal cases were ordered dismissed instead of archiving the same.

DCA Perez further reports that he found it difficult to finalize his report because of the failure of OIC Clerk of Court Ireneo Ricardo D. Aytona, Jr. to immediately submit a list of cases that were left undecided by Judge Meteoro as of his retirement on February 5, 2002; that it was only on August 30, 2002 that the OIC submitted the list, as follows:

CASE NO.	DATE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION
<b><u>Criminal Cases</u></b>	
1. 97-0226 to 97-0230	01-10-2000
2. 96-0010	01-11-2000
3. 96-0125- to 96-0126	02-13-2000
4. 96-0011	02-21-2000
5. 96-0150	02-21-2000
6. 96-0013	05-02-2000
7. 98-0269	05-15-2000
8. 96-0016	06-27-2000
9. 98-0257	09-04-2000
10. 96-0074	09-04-2000
11. 98-0278	09-25-2000
12. 96-0087	10-26-2000
13. 98-0259	10-27-2000
14. 96-0247	01-30-2001
15. 96-0030	01-31-2001
16. 96-0089	05-13-2001
17. 98-0296	05-14-2001
18. 98-0288	05-24-2001
19. 97-0241	06-22-2001
20. 97-0236	06-22-2001
21. 96-0156	06-26-2001
22. 96-0008	06-27-2001
23. 96-0191	08-03-2001
24. 98-0258	08-16-2001
25. 98-0260	08-16-2001
26. 98-0270	08-16-2001
27. 97-0210	09-06-2001