

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Sandiganbayan**  
Quezon City  
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**FIRST DIVISION**

**PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,**  
Plaintiff,

- versus -

Crim. Case No. **SB-11-CRM-0095**

**EDUARDO B. LECCIONES, JR.,**  
Accused.

X- ----- -X

**DECISION**

On May 2, 2019, the accused filed a Motion to Plea Bargain For Lower Offense, dated April 26, 2019. In that motion, the accused prayed that he be allowed to plea bargain to the lower offense of violation of Section 106 of Presidential Decree No. 1445, or the Government Auditing Code of the Philippines.

On May 6, 2019, the said accused filed a Supplement to Motion to Plea Bargain For Lower Offense, attaching a Certification, dated July 16, 2016, of Regional Executive Director Angel C. Enriquez, CESO of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. XII, Mandaue City, certifying that the subject Farm Inputs Farm Implements funds transferred by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. XII to various LGUs and NGO for the implementation of Farm Inputs Farm Implements of the Department of Agriculture were fully liquidated, as per the records in the subsidiary ledgers. He reiterated that he be allowed to plea bargain to the lower offense contained in his earlier motion.

On July 19, 2019, the prosecution filed its comment on accused motion to plea bargain for lower offense stating that the prosecution does not accept the proposed plea bargain by the accused to violation of Section 106 in relation to Section 128 of PD 1445, the Government Auditing Code of the Philippines. Instead, the prosecution counter-proposed that the accused be allowed to plea bargain to Frauds Against Public Treasury, defined and penalized under Article 213 of the Revised Penal Code, which counter-proposal was accepted by the accused. Prosecutor Vernard M. Villarin confirmed that the amount involved in this case had long been fully liquidated.

Upon re-arraignment this morning, the said accused entered a plea of GUILTY to Violation of Paragraph 1 of Article 213 of the Revised Penal Code. In view of the said plea of guilty to the said offense, and on account of the liquidation of the amount involved here which is P2,941,340.51, the said accused is hereby found GUILTY beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of Frauds Against Public Treasury, defined and penalized under Paragraph 1 of Article 213 of the Revised Penal Code, and is hereby sentenced to pay a fine of P10,000.00. Considering that the amount involved in this case had already been liquidated fully, there is no pronouncement as to the civil liability of the said accused.

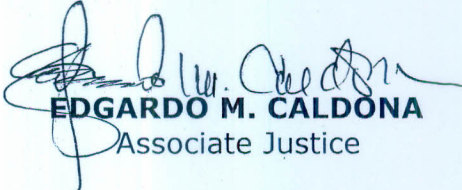


As prayed for by Atty. Efren L. Dizon, counsel for the said accused, let the bond posted by the accused for his temporary liberty be ordered released, subject to the usual accounting and auditing procedure. Upon full payment of the fine imposed, let the Hold Departure Order issued by this court in relation to this case against the accused be ordered lifted and set aside.

SO ORDERED.

Given in open court this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2019, in Quezon City, Philippines.

  
**EFREN N. DE LA CRUZ**  
Chairperson/Associate Justice

  
**EDGARDO M. CALDONA**  
Associate Justice

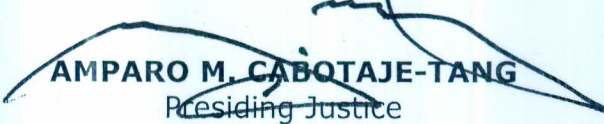
**ATTESTATION**

I attest that the conclusions in the above decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.

  
**EFREN N. DE LA CRUZ**  
Chairperson, First Division

**CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution, and the Division Chairman's Attestation, it is certified that the conclusions in the above Decision were reach in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.

  
**AMPARO M. CABOTAJE-TANG**  
Presiding Justice

END/res