



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 203-2017

TO : THE COURT OF APPEALS, SANDIGANBAYAN,
COURT OF TAX APPEALS, REGIONAL TRIAL
COURTS, SHARIA DISTRICT COURTS,
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL
TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL
COURTS, MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL
COURTS, SHARIA CIRCUIT COURTS, THE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR,
PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE
INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: LIFTING OF SUSPENSION FROM THE
PRACTICE OF LAW OF ATTY. JAMES JOSEPH
GUPANA

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the Resolution dated 7 June 2017 of the Special First Division in Administrative Case No. 4545, entitled "Carlito Ang v. Atty. James Joseph Gupana," to wit:

The Court resolves to *NOTE*:

- (1) the respondent's sworn statement dated June 6, 2016, stating that while he filed his motion for reconsideration of the Decision dated February 5, 2014, he voluntarily desisted on April 28, 2014 from the practice of law and has not appeared in court as counsel and had not reapplied for a notarial commission since then;
- (2) the respondent's amended sworn statement dated November 25, 2016, praying for the lifting of the order of his suspension from the practice of law and disqualification from being commissioned as notary public, and submitting therewith certifications from different courts of Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, Talisay City, Danao City, Toledo City, Surigao City, Dipolog City and Integrated Bar of the Philippines Cebu Chapter, all affirming that respondent has

desisted from the practice of law and has not appeared in court as counsel from April 28, 2014 to April 29, 2016 and has not been commissioned as notary public from 2010 to present;

- (3) the urgent *ex-parte* motion of respondent Atty. Gupana dated February 2, 2017 praying that an order be immediately issued lifting his one (1) year suspension from the practice of law and his two (2) years disqualification from re-appointment as notary public; and
- (4) the Report and Recommendation dated January 12, 2017 of the Office of the Bar Confidant.

The Court further resolves to *LIFT* the suspension of respondent Atty. James Joseph Gupana from the practice of law and his disqualification from being commissioned as notary public and he is allowed to *RESUME* his practice of law and he can now *FILE* his petition for notarial commission before the commissioning court of jurisdiction effective from notice.

26 September 2017


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator


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