



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 144-2020

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: SUSPENSION OF ATTY. MARIA MELISSA G. TORRES FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW FOR ONE (1) YEAR AND REVOCATION OF HER NOTARIAL COMMISSION AND DISQUALIFICATION FROM REAPPOINTMENT AS NOTARY PUBLIC FOR TWO (2) YEARS

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the dispositive portion of the Resolution dated 23 September 2019 of the Court (Third Division) in A.C. No. 12168, titled "Teodora Altobano-Ruiz vs. Atty. Maria Melissa G. Torres," to wit:

WHEREFORE, respondent Atty. Maria Melissa G. Torres is found **GUILTY** of violation of Section 2(b) and Section 5(a), Rule IV of the 2004 Rules of Notarial Practice and is hereby meted the penalty of **SUSPENSION** of one (1) year from the practice of law, **REVOCATION** of notarial commission, if still existing, and **DISQUALIFICATION** from appointment as a notary public for a period of two (2) years. She is hereby further **WARNED** that a repetition of the same or similar acts in the future shall be dealt with more severely.

Respondent's Motion for Reconsideration of the November 5, 2018 Resolution is **NOTED WITHOUT ACTION**.

In a Resolution dated 10 February 2020, the Court DENIED the respondent's Motion for Reconsideration with FINALITY, as no substantial matters were raised to warrant its reconsideration.

24 August 2020


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator

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