



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 348-2022

TO : THE COURT OF APPEALS, SANDIGANBAYAN, COURT OF TAX APPEALS, REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, SHARI'AH DISTRICT COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, SHARI'AH 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. ELY F. AZARRAGA

For your information and guidance, quoted hereunder is the Resolution dated 14 September 2022 of the Court (Special Third Division) in A.C. No. 12798, titled "**Re: Order dated January 7, 2020 of Judge Ignaciol I. Alajar suspending Atty. Ely F. Azarraga's Notarial Commission for one (1) year,**" to wit:

ACCORDINGLY, the Court, upon recommendation of the OBC, resolves to:

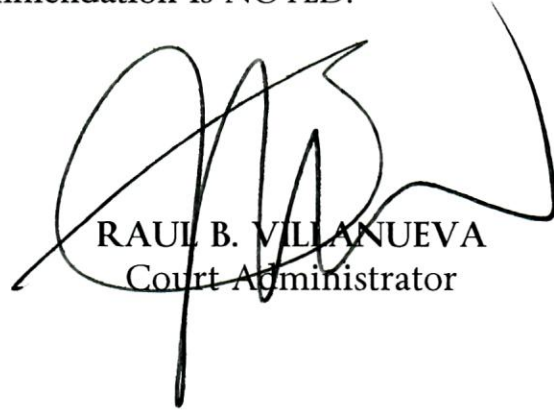
- (1) **APPROVE** Atty. Ely F. Azarraga's Compliance with Motion to Lift Order of Suspension dated May 17, 2022;
- (2) **ALLOW** Atty. Azarraga to **RESUME** his practice of law; and
- (3) **REQUIRE** Atty. Azarraga to **FILE** a motion to lift order and **SUBMIT** certifications enunciated in said case of A.C. No. 7472, upon the expiration of his disqualification from being commissioned as a notary public

In view thereof, the Court further resolves to **NOTE WITHOUT ACTION** respondent's (1) Motion to Withdraw Petition dated September 24, 2020, stating that on January 16, 2020, he filed an appeal *via* Petition for Review of the Order dated January 7, 2020 which ordered his suspension for a period of one (1) year, however, from his receipt of the said

order on January 9, 2020, he decided to finish his one year suspension and immediately desisted from performing notarial practice until present and duly complied with the submission of all documents he notarized prior to the suspension as directed, and praying that the said petition be withdrawn; and (2) the Motion for Reconsideration dated October 15, 2021 of the Decision promulgated on February 3, 2021, which found respondent guilty of violating the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice, Canon 1, Rule 1.01, Canon 10, and Rule 10.1 of the Code of Professional Responsibility and revoked his incumbent commission as notary public; disqualified him from being commissioned as a notary public for a period of one (1) year; and suspended him from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months from notice of said Decision.

The OBC's report and recommendation is NOTED.

14 December 2022



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator