

THE CORONA IMPEACHMENT

Day 8 - Monday, 30 January 2012

On the Second Article of Impeachment, *continued*

<i>Event / Witness</i>	<i>Highlights / Remarks</i>
<p><i>Resolution of the Court on Article II</i></p> <p>Senator-Judge Juan Ponce Enrile <i>Presiding Officer</i></p>	<p>The Court removed consideration of paragraph 2.4, relating to the issue of ill-gotten wealth from the impeachment proceeding.</p> <p>Enrile allowed the new sequence of presentation of the articles of impeachment – articles 2, 3, 7, 1, 8, 4, 5 and 6.</p> <p>The Court pointed out that witnesses would be allowed to answer questions based only on the documents they would be presenting.</p>
<p><i>Presentation of witness</i></p> <p><i>Seventh witness:</i> Giovanni Ng <i>Finance Director, Megaworld Corporation</i></p> <p>Joseph Perez <i>Private Prosecutor</i></p>	<p>Ng presented documents on the Bellagio properties of Chief Justice Renato Corona and his wife, Cristina. Also presented was the McKinley Hill property of their daughter, Ma. Charina Corona.</p> <p>Perez wanted to establish that the McKinley Hill property was in fact bought by the Corona couple for their daughter.</p> <p>Twenty-seven official receipts presented on the purchase of the McKinley property showed that the payors were Corona and his wife. However, the deed of absolute sale indicated Charina as its owner. Ng also revealed that the Corona couple sent a letter requesting the said property be named after their daughter.</p> <p>The witness then presented documents regarding the purchase of the Bellagio condominium unit. Ng described the unit as an upscale penthouse condominium unit with a view of the Manila Golf Course.</p> <p>The defense objected to the description of the witness for being baseless. Enrile asked the witness if he has gone to see the unit, which he replied in the negative, thus sustaining the objection.</p>

<p>Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon</p>	<p>terms.</p> <p>Ng said that once a reservation agreement was made together with the reservation fee and the first payment, they just required the buyer to submit post-dated checks for the remaining balance.</p> <p>Drilon asked Ng what the signature of Corona in one of the acknowledgment receipts, which stated “in his personal capacity and attorney-in-fact”, meant. Drilon inquired whether it meant that Corona was also the owner, to which the witness said he does not know. Ng just reiterated that it was the couple who made the payments as indicated in the receipts.</p>
<p><i>Eighth witness:</i> Constante Caluya Jr. <i>Register of Deeds, Makati City</i></p> <p>Rep. Marilyn Primicias Agabas <i>House Prosecutor</i></p>	<p>Caluya presented and testified to the authenticity of the documents relating to the purchase of Chief Justice Renato Corona and wife of the condominium unit in The Columns in Makati City</p>
<p><i>Ninth witness:</i> Aniceto Visnar Jr. <i>Senior Vice President, Ayala Land</i></p> <p>Jose Antonio Hernandez <i>Private Prosecutor</i></p>	<p>Visnar, as the former head of Commercial Operations of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the Bonifacio Ridge, testified on the purchase of a unit in the said property in Taguig City.</p> <p>Hernandez wanted to establish that the Blue Ridge property owned by the Chief Justice’s wife Cristina was not declared in the SALN from 2005 to 2009, and that it was also Corona who owned the condominium unit.</p> <p>Visnar disclosed that the property was purchased under the cash category. It was “almost” cash since two checks were issued separately within a month for the payment of the property.</p>
<p><i>Cross examination of Visnar</i> Ramon Esguerra <i>Defense counsel</i></p>	<p>Esguerra took note of the differences between the dates of purchase from the notice of acceptance to the actual delivery of the unit.</p> <p>Visnar said that the unit was semi-finished when it was sold to the buyer. He also described how a semi-finished unit would look like. However, when asked if he visited the actual unit sold to the Coronas, Visnar replied in the negative.</p> <p>Esguerra also asked Visnar if he knew if the property was declared in Corona’s SALNs, more so if he saw those SALNs. He also inquired whether the witness knew about the sources of funds of the buyer. In all cases Visnar replied in the negative.</p>

Senator-Judge Francis Pangilinan	<p>Pangilinan sought clarification as to the date of purchase. Visnar said that two payments were made based on the two checks issued. The first was on 31 March 2004, under the account of Chief Justice Corona, while the second was on 30 April 2004 under the account of Cristina Corona.</p> <p>Pangilinan then asked who the owner was. Visnar replied that based on the property's deed of sale, it was Cristina Corona. Pangilinan also inquired on another payment made on January 2005 under the account of the chief justice, which Visnar said was in payment for the value added tax and other transaction charges.</p>
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