



THE CORONA IMPEACHMENT

Timeline of Events

17 March 2010 – SC issues ruling on midnight appointments

- By a vote of 9-5, the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitutional ban on Presidential appointments (from two months before the next presidential elections until end of the incumbent's term) does not apply to the Supreme Court. Thus, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may validly appoint the next Chief Justice.

7 April 2010 – SC upholds the creation of a new congressional district in Camarines Sur

- By a vote of 9-5, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of RA 9716, which reapportions the first and second district of the province of Camarines Sur. The petition was filed by then Senator Benigno Aquino III, claiming that the creation of the new district would favor Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo, who could have been prevented from running against former Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya in the same district represented by Arroyo.

17 May 2010 – GMA appoints Corona as Chief Justice

- A week after the 10 May elections, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed then Associate Justice Renato Corona as the next Chief Justice, succeeding Reynato Puno upon his retirement on 17 May.

30 June 2010 – Aquino breaks tradition on inaugural oath-taking

- Deviating from tradition, then incoming President Benigno Aquino III chose to take his oath before Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales. Justice Carpio-Morales was among those who dissented from the Supreme Court's ruling that exempted the appointment of Supreme Court Chief Justice from the constitutional ban on appointments. President Corazon Aquino is only the other president since the time of President Manuel Roxas in 1946, whose oath was not administered by the chief magistrate. She took her oath before Supreme Court Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee Sr. on 25 February 1986.

10 October 2010 – SC issues status quo ante order on EO 2

- The Supreme Court issued a status quo ante order which reinstated Bai Omera Dianalan-Lucman, Chairperson of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos. She is among at least seven separate petitioners questioning the implementation of Executive Order No. 2, which revoked the more than 200 alleged midnight appointments of then President Macapagal-Arroyo.

15 February 2011 – SC reverses decision on new cities for the third time

- In 2008, the Supreme Court declared 16 cityhood laws as unconstitutional. The High Court cited the Local Government Code's PhP 100 million minimum income requirement for municipalities to become eligible for cityhood, as well as the Constitution's equal protection clause. Despite the final ruling, the Court reversed its decision three more times—on 21 December 2009, 24 August 2010, and 15 February 2011. In the latest ruling, the Court voted 7-6, declaring the conversion of 16 municipalities into cities as valid.

12 April 2011 – SC reverses ruling on Dinagat Islands

- After ruling with finality the unconstitutionality of RA 9335, which created the Province of Dinagat Islands on 12 May 2010, the Supreme Court reopened the case and reversed itself, declaring the law valid and constitutional.

26 July 2011 – SC declares the Truth Commission unconstitutional

- Citing violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution, the Supreme Court voided with finality Executive Order No. 1, which created the Truth Commission to investigate corruption allegations during the Arroyo administration. According to the ruling, the exclusion of previous administrations from the scope of the commission's mandate makes it a "vehicle for vindictiveness and selective retribution."

4 October 2011 – SC revokes order reinstating PAL flight attendants

- Acting on a letter from Philippine Airlines (PAL) lawyer Estelito Mendoza, the Supreme Court reopened the case involving 1,400 PAL flight attendants. The Court recalled its final ruling dated 7 September 2011 which ordered the reinstatement of PAL flight attendants retrenched in 1998. Mendoza pointed out that the ruling should have been made by the High Court's third division, not the second division.

15 November 2011 – SC issues TRO on the watchlist order on the Arroyo couple

- Voting 8-5, the Supreme Court issued a conditional temporary restraining order on the hold-departure order on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who requested permission to leave the country. The couple was placed on a watchlist by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima on 28 October by virtue of DOJ Circular 41, which authorized the inclusion of any person on the Bureau of Immigration's watchlist and the issuance of a hold-departure order by the bureau. The circular was issued by then Acting Justice Secretary Alberto Agra on 25 May 2010.

22 November 2011 – SC orders distribution of Hacienda Luisita to farmers

- By a unanimous 14-0 vote, and with Associate Justice Antonio Carpio inhibiting himself from the deliberations, the Supreme Court ordered the distribution of 5,000 hectares of land in Hacienda Luisita to farmworker beneficiaries. According to the Court, the stock distribution option implemented by Hacienda Luisita, Inc. was not in line with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

1 & 5 December 2011 – President Aquino attacks SC and CJ in public speeches

- In a speech before the members of the Makati Business Club, President Benigno Aquino III raised questions on the Supreme Court's inconsistent interpretation of rules on the Dinagat Islands case and its objectivity with respect to the speedy issuance of a temporary restraining order in favor of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Four days later, at the First Criminal Justice Summit, where the Supreme Court Chief Justice and other members of the judiciary were present, the President also questioned the Supreme Court ruling on midnight appointment, which paved the way for the appointment of Supreme Court Chief Renato Corona. The President also asked if a public servant bound by a debt of gratitude can truly look at the interests of the people.

12 December 2011 –188 House members impeach Corona

- On allegations of betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution, as well as graft and corruption; 188 members of the House of Representatives signed the eight Articles of Impeachment against Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona. The number surpassed the Constitutional requirement of one-third of the House membership to warrant the complaint's immediate transmittal to the Senate for trial.

14 December 2011 – Senator-judges take oath

- Convening as an Impeachment Court, members of the Senate took their oath as judges to try Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona Impeachment trial. Court Resolution No. 1 ordered the Chief Justice to formally answer the charges filed against him.

26 December 2011 & 2 January 2012 – Corona and the House file their answers to impeachment complaint

- In reply to the impeachment complaint submitted to the Senate, Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona claimed that it is unconstitutional, done with undue haste, and is a “bold, albeit ill-advised, attempt by the Executive branch to mold an obedient Supreme Court.” The House of Representatives answered back that the impeachment was a response to the “people’s clamor to hold him accountable...and purge the Highest Court of a morally unfit officer who has betrayed their trust.”

16 January 2011 – Impeachment trial begins

- The impeachment trial formally begins. Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona and his wife attended the first day of the proceedings.