



THE CORONA IMPEACHMENT

Day 4 - Thursday, 19 January 2012

On the Second Article of Impeachment, *continued*

<i>Event / Witness</i>	<i>Highlights / Remarks</i>
<p><i>Presentation of witnesses continues</i></p> <p><i>Third Witness:</i> Atty. Randy A. Rutaquio <i>Register of Deeds, Taguig City</i></p>	<p>House prosecutor Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. conducted the direct examination of the third witness. Rutaquio presented the Certificate of Title to a 330-square meter condominium unit with three parking lots in The Bellagio in Taguig, valued at P14.6 million, under the name of Chief Justice Renato Corona and his wife, Cristina. He also presented a deed of sale on a property sold by Megaworld Corporation to Corona’s daughter, Maria Czarina Corona. Rutaquio confirmed that the Chief Justice acted as attorney-in-fact for his daughter, based on the documents.</p>
<p>Serafin Cuevas <i>Lead Defense Counsel</i></p>	<p>Cuevas asked why the documents were being presented as evidence, saying the deeds were not connected to Article 2 of the Articles of Impeachment. Cuevas said the allegation that Corona’s amassed ill-gotten wealth while in the Supreme Court was based merely on suspicions, and that the presentation of evidence on the properties of Corona and his relatives violates the chief justice’s right to due process.</p> <p>Presiding Officer Senator-Judge Juan Ponce Enrile ruled that the presentation of evidence on Corona’s properties was “proper” since these assets pertain to Corona’s SALNs, which are the subject of Article II.</p>
<p><i>Clarification on Article II of the Articles of Impeachment</i> Senator-Judges Alan Peter Cayetano and Francis Escudero</p>	<p>Cayetano (Peter) asked the prosecution to clarify their allegations as stated in Article II of the Articles of Impeachment. He also asked if the accusation in Article II still had basis, since the SALNs are now disclosed to the public. He further sought clarification on what the prosecution was really charging against the Chief Justice.</p> <p>Cayetano (Peter) asked Barzaga how the House prosecutors came up with the charges when they had not yet seen the SALNs. Barzaga said the charges were “based on reports.”</p> <p>Escudero likewise raised his confusion on Article II which stated more than one accusation. He said there should only be one act stated, but notes therein listed <i>failure to disclose</i></p>

<p>Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon</p>	<p><u>SALNs, failure to disclose properties, and ill-gotten wealth.</u> He asked both the prosecution and defense panels to submit their legal memoranda to clarify the charges under Article II.</p> <p>Drilon asked Rutaquio about the documents, specifically the title bearing the name of Corona's daughter. Rutaquio confirmed that the Chief Justice acted as attorney-in-fact for his daughter, based on the documents.</p>
<p><i>Manifestation:</i> Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. <i>Lead Prosecutor</i></p>	<p>Tupas manifested that the lead counsel was not only objecting to the evidence but also lecturing the prosecution, and raising technicalities, which he said was a waste of time.</p> <p>Enrile said he has made a ruling to allow arguments so that the impeachment court will not be accused of railroading the proceedings, and also for the sake of the public. He also suggested that the prosecution meet with the witnesses and pre-mark the documents before the hearing to speed up the process and also to mark as evidence the entire document to avoid confusion over too many markings.</p> <p>Tupas then requested the court to excuse Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Chief Kim Henares from the proceedings, as she was not able to bring the Income Tax Returns (ITR) of Corona and his family.</p> <p>Henares was allowed to be excused and ordered to return on Tuesday. However, Enrile said that the release of the ITR will need authorization by the President.</p>
<p><i>Fourth Witness:</i> Carlo Alcantara <i>Acting Register of Deeds, Quezon City</i></p>	<p>In the cross examination of Private prosecutor Jose Justiniano, Alcantara said the Burgundy property owned by Corona's wife, Cristina was sold to their daughter, Carla Corona-Castillo and was accepted by Carla's attorney-in-fact, her father, the Chief Justice.</p> <p>Cuevas then asked to cross-examine Alcantara in the next hearing.</p>
<p><i>Fifth Witness:</i> Sedfrey H. Garcia <i>Register of Deeds, Marikina City</i></p>	<p>Garcia presented original copies of titles of properties in the name of Corona and his wife, Cristina but he was asked by the Impeachment Court to return on Tuesday (24 January) for the continuation of his testimony.</p> <p>Eleven more witnesses were supposed to have been presented.</p>