

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
TUGUEGARAO CITY

NINTH CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 164-2024

May 22, 2024

Submitted by: COMMITTEE ON RULES, LAWS AND ETHICS

April 30, 2024 Meeting

PRESENT:

HON. MARC ALDOUS C. BACCAY	- Chairman, Rules
HON. JUDE T. BAYONA	- Vice Chairman, Rules
HON. MARIA ROSARIO B. SORIANO	- Member, Rules
HON. ARNEL T. ARUGAY	- Member, Rules/ via zoom
HON. GRACE B. ARAGO	- Member, Rules

GUEST:

Hon. Tirso V. Mangada	- SP Member
-----------------------	-------------

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Atty. Gerome Pagalilauan	- Representative of City Legal Office
Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma	- Public Attorney's Office

May 22, 2024 Meeting

PRESENT:

HON. MARC ALDOUS C. BACCAY	- Chairman, Rules
HON. JUDE T. BAYONA	- Vice Chairman, Rules
HON. MARIA ROSARIO B. SORIANO	- Member, Rules/via zoom
HON. ARNEL T. ARUGAY	- Member, Rules/ via zoom
HON. GRACE B. ARAGO	- Member, Rules

GUESTS:

Hon. Restituto Ramirez	- SP Member
Hon. Imogen Claire M. Callangan	- SP Member/ via zoom
Hon. Cerene Pearl T. Quilang	- SP Member/ via zoom

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo	- Representative of City Legal Office
Hon. Ronald S. Ortiz	- SP Member/ via zoom

SPST-004-00

Ref. No. _____

Adopted during the 93rd ps- May 28, 2024

SUBJECT:

Indorsement of the City Mayor, Hon. Maila Rosario S. Ting-Que, on the letter from the Counsel of Jameson A. Pascual, Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma, relative to the Motion for Consolidation and to Enter into Plea Bargaining Agreement.

FOR THE PRESIDING OFFICER:

The Members of the Committee met and deliberated on the Indorsement of the City Mayor, Hon. Maila Rosario S. Ting-Que, on the letter from the Counsel of Jameson A. Pascual, Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma, relative to the Motion for Consolidation and to Enter into Plea Bargaining Agreement. The Committee respectfully submits the herein Committee Report and has the honor to report to this August body in session the following actions taken, its findings and recommendations.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

The committee initially conducted an evaluation of the subject referral on April 30, 2024. However, during the presentation of the Committee Report No. 145-2024 in the 90th Regular Session held on May 06, 2024, Hon. Ronald Ortiz raised questions that needs clarification, hence, the matter was referred back to the committee for further deliberation. Another meeting was conducted on May 22, 2024 with the presence of the City Legal Officer, Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo, to explain and provide clarifications.

FINDINGS:

1. The office of the City Legal Officer, Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo, received a Motion to Enter into Plea Bargain submitted by Jameson Pascual y Aglugub through his counsel Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma of the Public Attorney's Office. Mr. Jameson Pascual is one of the accused in Criminal Case No. 21345 & 21346 currently pending before the Regional Trial Court-Branch 3, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.
2. Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma of the Public Attorney's Office informed the members of the committee that the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, has voluntarily expressed his willingness to plead guilty to a lesser offense from 2 counts ESTAFA through falsification of public documents to 2 counts of simple Estafa and undertake full restitution of the total amount defrauded from the funds of Philhealth, which were entrusted to the City Government.
3. Atty. Gerome Pagalilauan mentioned during the meeting that the accused will be imposed to pay the damages and return the benefits or claims they obtained before, and the same will be returned to the trust fund given by Philhealth provided that the Tuguegarao City Government will pursue criminal cases against the persons who are directly involved in the fraud.
4. The City Legal Officer, Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo, explained that there is no cost of suit in a criminal case and the services provided by them were compensated through their regular salaries which means that there are no unnecessary expense coming from the government. She also mentioned that they are very selective with the witnesses because not all of the accused who entered into a plea-bargaining agreement knows the whole scheme.

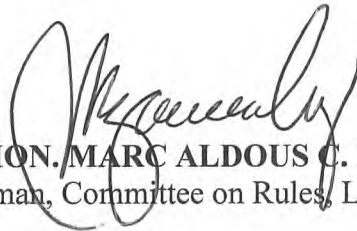
5. To commence the plea-bargaining process, there is a need for the approval of the plea-bargaining agreement by the City Government of Tuguegarao through a Sangguniang Panlungsod Resolution.
6. There is also a need for the passage of a resolution granting authority to the Honorable City Mayor and/or City Legal Officer to represent the Tuguegarao City Government to enter into a plea-bargaining agreement with the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, in Criminal Case No. 21345 and 21346.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

After a thorough discussion on the subject matter, the committee hereby recommends for the passage of a Resolution granting authority to the City Mayor and/or City Legal Officer to represent the Tuguegarao City Government to enter into a Plea-Bargaining Agreement with the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, in Criminal Case No. 21345 and 21346.

Attached herewith is the Draft Resolution.

Respectfully submitted:



HON. MARC ALDOUS C. BACCAY
Chairman, Committee on Rules, Laws and Ethics



HON. JUDE T. BAYONA OS
Vice Chairman, Committee on Rules, Laws and Ethics



HON. MARIA ROSARIO B. SORIANO
Member, Committee on Rules, Laws and Ethics



HON. ARNEL T. ARUGAY
Member, Committee on Rules, Laws and Ethics



HON. GRACE B. ARAGO OS
Member, Committee on Rules, Laws and Ethics

**DRAFT RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MAYOR AND/OR
CITY LEGAL OFFICER TO REPRESENT THE TUGUEGARAO CITY
GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO A PLEA-BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE
ACCUSED, JAMESON A. PASCUAL, IN CRIMINAL CASE NO. 21345 AND 21346.**

WHEREAS, the office of the City Legal Officer, Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo, received a Motion to Enter into Plea Bargain submitted by Jameson Pascual y Aglugub through his counsel Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma of the Public Attorney's Office. Mr. Jameson Pascual is one of the accused in Criminal Case No. 21345 & 21346 currently pending before the Regional Trial Court-Branch 3, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan;

WHEREAS, Atty. Roderick C. Tagaruma of the Public Attorney's Office informed the members of the committee that the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, has voluntarily expressed his willingness to plead guilty to a lesser offense from 2 counts ESTAFA through falsification of public documents to 2 counts of simple Estafa and undertake full restitution of the total amount defrauded from the funds of Philhealth, which were entrusted to the City Government;

WHEREAS, Atty. Gerome Pagalilauan mentioned during the meeting that the accused will be imposed to pay the damages and return the benefits or claims they obtained before, and the same will be returned to the trust fund given by Philhealth provided that the Tuguegarao City Government will pursue criminal cases against the persons who are directly involved in the fraud;

WHEREAS, the City Legal Officer, Atty. Vanessa T. Herrero-Verbo, explained that there is no cost of suit in a criminal case and the services provided by them were compensated through their regular salaries which means that there are no unnecessary expense coming from the government. She also mentioned that they are very selective with the witnesses because not all of the accused who entered into a plea-bargaining agreement knows the whole scheme.

WHEREAS, to commence the plea-bargaining process, there is a need for the approval of the plea-bargaining agreement by the City Government of Tuguegarao through a Sangguniang Panlungsod Resolution;

WHEREAS, there is also a need for the passage of a resolution granting authority to the Honorable City Mayor and/or City Legal Officer to represent the Tuguegarao City Government to enter into a plea-bargaining agreement with the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, in Criminal Case No. 21345 and 21346;

NOW, THEREFORE RESOLVED, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, to grant authority to the City Mayor and/or City Legal Officer to represent the Tuguegarao City Government to enter into a Plea-Bargaining Agreement with the accused, Jameson A. Pascual, in Criminal Case No. 21345 and 21346.