



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

FIRST DIVISION

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court, First Division, issued a Resolution dated **March 23, 2022** which reads as follows:*

“G.R. No. 255109 (Claudia J. Jalandoni, Andres Jamora and Jennifer Jalandoni v. Solidbank/Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company). – Before the Court is a Petition for Review on *Certiorari*¹ assailing the Decision² dated December 10, 2018 and the Resolution³ dated August 27, 2020 of the Court of Appeals (CA) in CA-G.R. CV No. 06207. The assailed CA Decision affirmed with modification the Decision⁴ dated December 17, 2015 of Branch 42, Regional Trial Court (RTC), Bacolod City in Civil Case No. 03-12188. The RTC ordered Claudia J. Jalandoni (Claudia), Andres Jamora (Andres) and Jennifer Jalandoni (Jennifer) (collectively, petitioners), binding themselves as solidary debtors with JJM Corporation, to pay Solidbank Corporation (Solidbank)/Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) the amount of ₱1,321,285.66 representing petitioners’ outstanding obligation. The assailed Resolution, on the other hand, denied petitioners’ Motion for Reconsideration.⁵

The Antecedents

On August 28, 1996, Claudia executed a Chattel Mortgage⁶ in favor of Solidbank to secure a loan of ₱2,000,000.00. On August 14, 2000, Solidbank assigned its assets to Metrobank, effectively making the latter the creditor of Claudia.⁷

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¹ *Rollo*, pp. 7-20.

² *Id.* at 27-36; penned by Associate Justice Louis P. Acosta with Associate Justices Pamela Ann Abella Maxino and Dorothy P. Montejo-Gonzaga, concurring.

³ *Id.* at 41-43; penned by Associate Justice Pamela Ann Abella Maxino with Associate Justices Marilyn B. Lagura-Yap and Dorothy P. Montejo-Gonzaga, concurring.

⁴ *Id.* at 118-120; penned by Judge Fernando R. Elumba.

⁵ *Id.* at 121-126.

⁶ *Id.* at 57-58.

⁷ *Id.* at 28.

On August 10, 2001, Claudia and Andres, representing JJM Corporation, borrowed from Metrobank the amount of ₱1,321,285.66 under a promissory note.⁸ On the same day, Claudia, Andres, and Jennifer also executed a Continuing Surety Agreement⁹ in favor of Metrobank, binding themselves as solidary debtors with JJM Corporation for the aforesaid amount.¹⁰

Petitioners defaulted in their amortization payments. Thereafter, Metrobank sent petitioners a Demand Letter¹¹ which sought payment of their outstanding obligation amounting to ₱1,387,456.86. However, petitioners failed to heed Metrobank's demand. Metrobank thus filed against petitioners a Complaint for Sum of Money with Prayer for Preliminary Attachment¹² before Branch 42, RTC, Bacolod City.¹³

By way of special and affirmative defenses, petitioners alleged, among others, that they have no privity of contract with and obligations to Metrobank as their transaction was with Solidbank. They further asserted that they did not receive any demand letter from Metrobank.¹⁴

Ruling of the RTC

On December 17, 2015, the RTC rendered a Decision in favor of Metrobank and ordered petitioners to: (1) solidarily pay Metrobank the amount of ₱1,387,456.86 with legal interest rate of 12% *per annum* from February 28, 2003 until full payment thereof; (2) pay Metrobank the sum of ₱50,000.00 as attorney's fees; and (3) to pay the costs of suit.¹⁵

Petitioners filed a Motion for Reconsideration¹⁶ of the RTC Decision, but the RTC denied it in an Order¹⁷ dated May 17, 2016.

Petitioners subsequently appealed¹⁸ to the CA. They argued that the RTC erred in admitting the documentary evidence of Metrobank which were not original copies but merely machine copies, in violation of the Best Evidence Rule under the Rules of Court.¹⁹

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⁸ *Id.* at 61-62.

⁹ *Id.* at 59-60.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 28.

¹¹ *Id.* at 70.

¹² *Id.* at 45-54.

¹³ *Id.* at 8.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 29.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 120.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 121-126.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 133.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 134.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 142-146.

Ruling of the CA

In a Decision²⁰ dated December 10, 2018, the CA denied the appeal. Petitioners moved for reconsideration,²¹ but the CA denied it in a Resolution²² dated August 27, 2020.

Unsatisfied, petitioners filed the present petition maintaining the same argument they raised before the CA.

The Court's Ruling

Pending resolution of the petition, the parties, through their respective counsels, filed a Joint Motion to Dismiss with Satisfaction of Judgment²³ dated October 14, 2021, which reads:

COME NOW the parties, through their undersigned counsels and to the Honorable Supreme Court, jointly move for the dismissal of the above-captioned case with prejudice on the ground that the claims of the [r]espondents against JJM CORP., ANDRES JAMORA, CLAUDIA J. JALANDONI and JENNIFER J. JALANDONI are now fully paid and satisfied after receiving the amount of THREE MILLION (₱3,000,000.00) PESOS from the [p]etitioners, as per BPI Manager's Check No. 30518 dated September 30, 2021.²⁴

Finding the terms of the Satisfaction of Judgment not contrary to law, morals, good customs, public policy, and public order, and in deference to the parties' obvious intention of settling the dispute amicably, the Court resolves to **GRANT** the Joint Motion to Dismiss with Satisfaction of Judgment. Accordingly, the instant case is **DEEMED CLOSED** and **TERMINATED**.

Let entry of judgment be issued immediately.

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²⁰ *Id.* at 27-36.

²¹ *Id.* at 37-39.

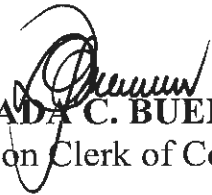
²² *Id.* at 41-43.

²³ *Id.* at 192.

²⁴ *Id.*

SO ORDERED.”

By authority of the Court:


LIBRADA C. BUENA
Division Clerk of Court *lib*

by:

MARIA TERESA B. SIBULO
Deputy Division Clerk of Court

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The Hon. Presiding Judge
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Bacolod City, 6100 Negros Occidental
(Civil Case No. 03-12188)

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