



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 29, 2023** which reads as follows:*

**“A.C. No. 13204 [Formerly CBD Case No. 16-4932] (*Valentin G. Yabes v. Atty. Gerardo A. Villaluz*). – Before the Court is the Petition for Review<sup>1</sup> filed by Valentin G. Yabes (Yabes) assailing the Resolutions dated March 22, 2018<sup>2</sup> and September 12, 2020<sup>3</sup> of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Board of Governors in CBD Case No. 16-4932.**

At the outset, We reiterate Our pronouncement in *Festin v. Zubiri*<sup>4</sup> that, pursuant to Section 12 (b) and (c) of Rule 139-B of the Rules of Court, as amended by Bar Matter No. 1645<sup>5</sup> dated October 13, 2015, Yabes’ filing of the instant Petition for Review is unnecessary.<sup>6</sup> “[T]he IBP Board’s resolution is merely recommendatory regardless of the penalty imposed on the lawyer. Any final action on a lawyer’s administrative liability shall be done by the Court based on the entire records of the case, including the IBP Board’s recommendation, without need for [a party] to file any additional pleading.”<sup>7</sup>

Thus, the IBP Board’s resolutions and the case records were forwarded to this Court.

After a judicious review of the records, We **RESOLVE** to:

(1) **NOTE** the Notice of Resolution dated March 22, 2018 in CBD Case No. 16-4932 of the IBP Board of Governors, which adopted and approved the Report and Recommendation<sup>8</sup> dated June 23, 2017 of

<sup>1</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 308-314.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 338-339.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 336-337.

<sup>4</sup> 811 Phil. 1 (2017).

<sup>5</sup> Entitled “RE: AMENDMENT OF RULE 139-B.” Dated: October 13, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> *Festin v. Zubiri*, supra note 4 at 8.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 340-344. Penned by Commissioner Ricardo M. Espina.

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the Investigating Commissioner dismissing the complaint against Atty. Gerardo A. Villaluz for lack of merit; and

(2) **ADOPT** and **APPROVE** the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of the IBP Board of Governors in the Notice of Resolution dated September 12, 2020 which resolved to deny the Motion for Reconsideration filed by Yabes, there being no new reason and/or new argument adduced to reverse the Resolution dated March 22, 2018 of the IBP Board of Governors.

Accordingly, the Petition for Review filed by Valentin G. Yabes is **NOTED**. The Complaint filed against Atty. Gerardo A. Villaluz is **DISMISSED** for lack of merit.

**SO ORDERED.”**

**By authority of the Court:**

**LIBRADA C. BUENA**  
Division Clerk of Court

by:



**MARIA TERESA B. SIBULO**  
Deputy Division Clerk of Court

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**APR 26 2023**

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