

TO: Ms. Rowena T. Macatao, Administrator, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City
Engr. Zaldy A. Dela Rosa QMC Action Officer, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City

We sent our colleague, Ullen Paul Lazarte, to do a simple task. He was to hand deliver a hard copy of a letter that I had written to you both yesterday and sent to you by the email address that was given to us by your office. I had sent that email in compliance with the provisions of a national law, BP 880. The details are found in my email to you as well as in the hard copy of the letter that was to have been given by Mr. Lazarte.

At around 1230pm, Mr. Lazarte tried to have your office receive the letter. The people in your office refused to receive the letter. I was informed about this development. I then asked Mr. Lazarte to inform you that I wanted to speak with you, Engr. Zaldy Dela Rosa. We got hold of you around 1:45pm. You also refused to accept the letter and you told me to go to an office in City Hall. I wanted to clarify which office and also to explain to you why the letter had to be received by you or your office. All of a sudden you refused to talk to me and just hanged up. You basically just walked away in the middle of our conversation.

Among others, I wanted to explain that my letter to you both was in fulfillment of an understanding we had the last time we had a face-to-face meeting in your office last 17 November 2021. You told me then, that if I gave you proof that QMC was a Freedom Park, then we could hold our rally at the Freedom Park without any permit as specified in Section 4 of BP 880. The 4-page letter is exactly the proof that you wanted us to produce. Yet, you decided to turn your back on that agreement and did not even want to receive and acknowledge my advisory letter to QMC.

By doing this, you are violating the **Section 4** of RA 6713, "CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES":

Section 4 "(a) Commitment to public interest. - Public officials and employees shall always uphold the public interest over and above personal interest

"(b) Professionalism. - Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill. They shall enter public service with utmost devotion and dedication to duty. ...

"(c) Justness and sincerity. - Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. ...

"(d) Political neutrality. - Public officials and employees shall provide service to everyone without unfair discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference.

"(e) Responsiveness to the public. - Public officials and employees shall extend prompt, courteous, and adequate service to the public. ...

"(f) Nationalism and patriotism. - Public officials and employees shall at all times be loyal to the Republic and to the Filipino people, ...

"(g) Commitment to democracy. - Public officials and employees shall commit themselves to the democratic way of life and values, maintain the principle of public accountability, and manifest by deeds the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. They shall at all times uphold the Constitution and put loyalty to country above loyalty to persons or party."

You are also violating **Section 5** of RA6713.

"Section 5. Duties of Public Officials and Employees. - In the performance of their duties, all public officials and employees are under obligation to:

"(a) Act promptly on letters and requests. ...

"(d) Act immediately on the public's personal transactions. - All public officials and employees must attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of their offices and must, at all times, act promptly and expeditiously."

Given your unexpectedly rude behavior, this would be a good time for you to remind yourself of Section 2 of RA 6713 which reads:

"Section 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is the policy of the State to **promote a high standard of ethics in public service.** Public officials and employees **shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence,** and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest." (Emphasis added on substance of policy.)

Ignorance of the law is not excusable under the law, especially coming from a government official supposedly dedicated to upholding the law. But in this case I will give you the opportunity to apologize for your rude, unethical, and unprofessional behavior totally unbecoming of a public official. If I do not receive that apology from you by THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021, NOON TIME, I will take your lack of action as a sign that you really do not care about the law and about discharging your public duty in a professional manner that the public and the law expect with public servants.

As a result, **I will put you on notice.** I will be filing a case against you both and your office for wantonly violating Republic Act 6713, "CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES". As Section 11 of this law states, **if you are found guilty, you can be fined 6 months of your salary or suspended for as much as one year.**

Sincerely,

Nicanor J. III Perlas