



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUPREME COURT
Manila

SECOND DIVISION

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court, Second Division, issued a Resolution dated **15 March 2021** which reads as follows:*

“G.R. No. 255446 (Nelton L. Sumiton v. National Commission on Indigenous People [NCIP]). - After a judicious study of the case, the Court resolves to **DENY** the present petition¹ and **AFFIRM** the Resolution² dated October 8, 2020 rendered by the Court of Appeals (CA) in CA-G.R. SP No. 09451-MIN for failure of petitioner Nelton L. Sumiton (petitioner) to sufficiently show that the CA committed any reversible error in denying his motion for reconsideration and noting without action his belatedly-filed petition for review.

Time and again, the Court has reiterated that rules of procedure, especially those prescribing the time within which certain acts must be done, are absolutely indispensable to the prevention of needless delays and to the orderly and speedy discharge of business. While procedural rules may be relaxed in the interest of justice, it is well-settled that these are tools designed to facilitate the adjudication of cases. Procedural rules are not to be belittled or dismissed simply because their non-observance may have prejudiced a party’s substantive rights. Like all rules, they are required to be followed except only for the most persuasive of reasons when they may be relaxed to relieve a litigant of an injustice not commensurate with the degree of his thoughtlessness in not complying with the procedure prescribed.³ In this case, petitioner miserably failed to justify why procedural rules prescribing the reglementary period for the filing of his petition for review before the CA should be set aside in his favor. Hence, the CA did not err in merely noting without action his belatedly-filed petition for review and denying his motion seeking reconsideration of the Resolution dated August 14, 2019 declaring the case closed and terminated.

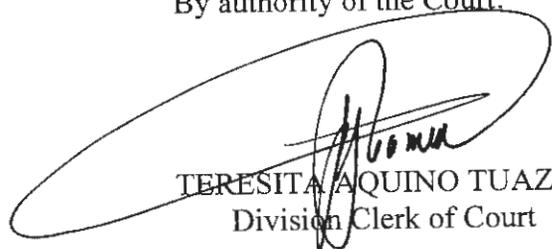
SO ORDERED.”

¹ Rollo, pp. 3-15.

² Id. at 232-233.

³ *Philippine Savings Bank v. Papa*, 823 Phil. 725, 736, citing *Lazaro v. CA*, 386 Phil. 412, 417 (2000) and *Philippine National Bank v. Deang Marketing Corporation*, 593 Phil. 703, 715 (2008).

By authority of the Court:



TERESITA AQUINO TUAZON
Division Clerk of Court

29 APR 2021

NELTON L. SUMITON (reg)
 Petitioner
 Purok Central, Olingan
 Dipolog City
 and/or
 c/o Arnel Escal (near Olingan Elementary School)
 Olingan, Dipolog City

HON. ZENAIDA BRIGIDA H. PAWID (reg)
 Chairperson-NCIP
 6th & 7th Floors, Sunnymede, IT Center
 1614 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
 and/or
 2nd Floor, N. Dela Merced Bldg.
 cor. West and Quezon Ave.
 Quezon City

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) (reg)
 6th & 7th Floors, Sunnymede, IT Center
 1614 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
 and/or
 2nd Flr., Dela Merced Building
 Corner West and Quezon Avenues
 West Triangle, Quezon City
 (Administrative Case No. CO-01-09-12)

JUDGMENT DIVISION (x)
 Supreme Court, Manila

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 Supreme Court, Manila

COURT OF APPEALS (reg)
 Mindanao Station
 Cagayan de Oro City
 CA-G.R. SP No. 09451-MIN

Please notify the Court of any change in your address.
 GR255446. 3/15/2021A(156)URES