



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 June 2020** which reads as follows:*

“G.R. No. 240691 (**People of the Philippines v. Armel Obille y Jacusalem, Christopher Castañeda y Collado, Andy Punzalan, Lenny Ramos, and Wally Valdes, Accused; Armel Obille, Christopher Castañeda, and Andy Punzalan, Accused-appellants**). – After a judicious study of the case, the Court resolves to **DISMISS** the appeal¹ for failure to sufficiently show that the Court of Appeals (CA) committed any reversible error in the assailed Decision as to warrant the exercise of the Court’s appellate jurisdiction. However, in light of prevailing jurisprudence, particularly, *People v. Tampus*,² the Court deems it proper to adjust the award of damages imposed against Lenny Ramos (Lenny).

WHEREFORE, the Court **ADOPTS** the findings of fact and conclusions of law in the June 30, 2017 Decision³ of the CA in CA-G.R. CR-HC No. 05384 and **AFFIRMS with MODIFICATION** said Decision as follows: (a) accused-appellants Armel Obille y Jacusalem and Christopher Castañeda y Collado are found **GUILTY** beyond reasonable doubt of the complex crime of Forcible Abduction with Rape and four (4) counts of Rape. Accordingly, they are both sentenced to suffer the penalty of *reclusion perpetua* for each crime, and to pay private complainant AAA⁴ the amounts of ₱75,000.00 as civil indemnity,

¹ See Notice of Appeal dated July 25, 2017; *rollo*, pp. 16-18.

² 607 Phil. 296, 326 (2009).

³ *Rollo*, pp. 2-15. Penned by Associate Justice Zenaida T. Galapate-Laguilles with Associate Justices Japar B. Dimaampao and Franchito N. Diamante, concurring.

⁴ The identity of the victim or any information which could establish or compromise her identity, as well as those of her immediate family or household members, shall be withheld pursuant to Republic Act No. (RA) 7610, entitled “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STRONGER DETERRENCE AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” approved on June 17, 1992; RA 9262, entitled “AN ACT DEFINING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” approved on March 8, 2004; and Section 40 of A.M. No. 04-10-11-SC, otherwise known as the “RULE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN” (November 15, 2004). (See footnote 4 in *People v. Cadano, Jr.*, 729 Phil. 576, 578 [2014], citing *People v. Lomaque*, 710 Phil. 338, 342 [2013]. See also Amended Administrative Circular No. 83-2015, entitled “PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES IN THE PROMULGATION, PUBLICATION, AND POSTING ON THE WEBSITES OF DECISIONS, FINAL RESOLUTIONS, AND FINAL ORDERS USING FICTITIOUS NAMES/PERSONAL

₱75,000.00 as moral damages, and ₱75,000.00 as exemplary damages for each crime, and cost of suit; (b) accused-appellant Andy Punzalan is found **GUILTY** beyond reasonable doubt of the complex crime of Forcible Abduction with Rape and three (3) counts of Rape. Accordingly, he is sentenced to suffer the penalty of *reclusion perpetua* for each crime, and to pay AAA the amounts of ₱75,000.00 as civil indemnity, ₱75,000.00 as moral damages, and ₱75,000.00 as exemplary damages for each crime, and cost of suit; and (c) Lenny is found **GUILTY** beyond reasonable doubt as an accomplice of the complex crime of Forcible Abduction with Rape. Accordingly, she is sentenced to suffer the penalty of imprisonment for an indeterminate period of eight (8) years and one (1) day of *prison mayor* in its medium, as minimum, to fourteen (14) years, eight (8) months, and one (1) day of *reclusion temporal* in its medium, as maximum for each crime. Being an accomplice, Lenny is held solidarily liable with the principal only for half of the award of damages and their subsidiary liability shall be imposed in accordance with Article 110 of the Revised Penal Code.⁵ Moreover, all monetary awards shall earn an interest at the legal rate of six percent (6%) per annum from the date of the finality of this Resolution until full payment.

SO ORDERED. (Gaerlan, J., designated Additional Member per Special Order No. 2780 dated May 11, 2020.”

Very truly yours,


TERESITA AQUINO TUAZON
Deputy Division Clerk of Court *mcc97*

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CIRCUMSTANCES,” dated September 5, 2017.) See further *People v. Ejercito*, G.R. No. 229861, July 2, 2018.

⁵ See *Garces v. People*, 554 Phil. 683, 699 (2007).

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HON. PRESIDING JUDGE (reg)
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(Crim. Case No. 6299)

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