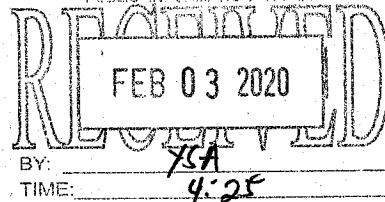




Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



FIRST DIVISION

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

Please take notice that the Court, First Division, issued a Resolution dated January 22, 2020 which reads as follows:

“G.R. No. 249708 (Marilyn Magpantay Caeg and Almario Layosa Caeg v. People of the Philippines). - The petitioners’ motion for an extension of thirty (30) days within which to file a petition for review on certiorari is **GRANTED**, counted from the expiration of the reglementary period.

After a judicious perusal of the records, the Court resolves to DENY the petition for failure to sufficiently show that the Court of Appeals (CA) committed any reversible error in its assailed resolutions as to warrant the exercise of this Court’s discretionary appellate jurisdiction.

This Court has emphasized that acquittal from a crime does not necessarily mean absolution from civil liability.¹ A judgment of acquittal extinguishes the liability of the accused for damages only when it includes a declaration that the facts from which the civil liability might arise did not exist. Thus, the civil liability is not extinguished by acquittal where the acquittal is based on lack of proof beyond reasonable doubt, since only preponderance of evidence is required in civil cases.²

Here, We see no reason to depart from the findings of the lower courts that notwithstanding the petitioner spouses’ acquittal, they must remain liable for the payment of civil damages equivalent to the face value of the seven subject checks, totaling ₱1,012,550.00 because they failed to present any evidence that would prove the extinguishment of their obligations. Petitioners alleged that they

- over – two (2) pages ...

18

¹ *Dela Cruz v. People*, 792 Phil. 214, 236 (2016).

² *Rico v. People*, 440 Phil. 540, 555 (2002).

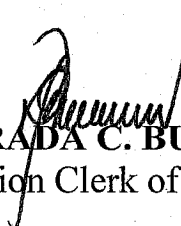
made prior payments to the private complainants only July 28, 2012 and August 15, 2012, presenting receipts as proof. However, as found by the trial court and the CA, such allegation was insufficient because the handwritten receipts failed to specifically acknowledge the payment of the debts covered by the subject checks.

Moreover, We must emphasize that the Rules of Court requires that only questions of law should be raised in petitions filed under Rule 45. This Court is not a trier of facts. It will not entertain questions of fact as the factual findings of the appellate courts are "final, binding, or conclusive on the parties and upon this Court" when supported by substantial evidence. Factual findings of the appellate courts will not be reviewed nor disturbed on appeal to this Court.³

WHEREFORE, premises considered, We **DENY** the petition and **AFFIRM** the Resolutions dated May 31, 2019 and September 27, 2019 of the Court of Appeals in CA-G.R. CR No. 42841.

SO ORDERED."

Very truly yours,


LIBRADA C. BUENA
Division Clerk of Court

108

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Special and Appealed Cases Service
Counsel for Petitioners
DOJ Agencies Building
Diliman, 1101 Quezon City

Court of Appeals (x)
Manila
(CA-G.R. CR No. 42841)

The Solicitor General
134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village
1229 Makati City

Public Information Office (x)
Library Services (x)
Supreme Court
(For uploading pursuant to A.M.
No. 12-7-1-SC)

The Hon. Presiding Judge
Regional Trial Court, Branch 84
1100 Quezon City
(Crim. Case Nos. Q-17-13999 to 14005-CR)

Judgment Division (x)
Supreme Court

The Hon. Presiding Judge
Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 41
1100 Quezon City
(Crim. Case Nos. 14-07342 to 48-CR)

UR

³ *Lydia Cu v. Trinidad Ventura*, G.R. No. 224567, September 26, 2018.

RAF