

Item No.: 26

Date: 17 2026 MAR



Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Manila

FIRST DIVISION

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

Date: MAR 06 2026  
By: dwene 4:37 pm

**ELMER FREDERICO T.  
CODILLA,**

*Petitioner,*

*-versus-*

EPC No. 017-2022

**VINCENT L. RAMA,**

*Respondent.*

x-----x

**NOTICE**

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

Office of the President  
Malacañang Palace  
San Miguel, Manila. \*  
mro@op.gov.ph

**THE CHAIRMAN**  
Commission on Audit,  
Commonwealth Avenue,  
Batasan Compound,  
Quezon City. \*  
cho@coa.gov.ph

**ATTY. ANTONIO C. LOPEZ, JR.**  
*Counsel for Petitioner*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cordeta Building,  
Corner Zamora and Pilar Streets,  
6500 Tacloban City.  
aclopez617@gmail.com  
ortdillajesus@gmail.com

**THE SECRETARY**  
**THRU: ATTY. KEVIN CARPESO**  
Head Executive Assistant  
Department of the Interior and  
Local Government (DILG),  
DILG-NAPOLCOM CENTER,  
EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue,  
Quezon City. \*  
krcarpeso@dilg.gov.ph

**SECRETARY OF THE**  
**SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
District IV,  
Province of Leyte.

**ATTY. NELIA S. AUREUS**

*Counsel for Petitioner*

Blk. 75 Lot 8, V3 Connecticut St.,  
Metro South Biclatan,  
4107 General Trias, Cavite.  
nelaureus@gmail.com

**GANA ATIENZA AVIZADO  
LAW OFFICES**

*Counsel for the Respondent*

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, HPL Building,  
No. 60 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,  
Makati City.  
ganaandpartners@yahoo.com

**ELMER FREDERICO T. CODILLA**

*Petitioner*

Spillway, Brgy. Poblacion,  
6531 Kananga, Leyte.

**VINCENT L. RAMA**

*Respondent*

Blk. 2, Lot 12,  
Doña Concepcion Village,  
Brgy. Poblacion,  
6531 Kananga, Leyte.

**THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION  
SUPERVISOR**

Office of the Provincial Election  
Supervisor  
2/F, COMELEC Region 8 Building,  
New Bus Terminal Compound,  
Barangay 91, Abucay,  
Tacloban City.  
opes\_leyte@comelec.gov.ph

**ATTY. FRANCES CAROLYN M.  
AGUINDADAO-ARABE**

*Director IV*

Education and Information  
Department,  
Commission on Elections,  
Intramuros, Manila.

**ATTY. JOHN REX C.**

**LAUDIANGCO**

*Director IV & COMELEC*

*Spokesperson*

Office of the COMELEC  
Spokesperson  
Commission on Elections,  
Intramuros, Manila.

**MR. ARNOLD DIZON**

*Chief, Judicial Records Division*

Electoral Contests Adjudication  
Department,  
Commission on Elections,  
Intramuros, Manila.

**ATTY. ALLEN FRANCIS B.**

**ABAYA**

*Clerk of Court of the Commission/  
Director IV*

Electoral Contests Adjudication  
Department,  
Commission on Elections,  
Intramuros, Manila.

**GREETINGS!**

Attached are copies of the **CERTIFICATE OF FINALITY** issued by the Division Clerk of Court and the **ENTRY OF JUDGMENT** issued by the Clerk of Court of this Commission, Electoral Contests Adjudication Department, both dated January 6, 2026, in the subject case.

Given this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, City of Manila, Philippines.

**FOR THE DIVISION:**



**JAMILA T. BUNSA**  
Division Clerk of Court

~~Completeness of Service to the Parties per Section 6, Rule 4 of Comelec Resolution No. 10673 (In re: Guidelines on Electronic Filing, Conduct of Hearings/Investigations/Inquiries via Video Conference, and Service).~~

**SECTION 6. Proof and Completeness of Service to the Parties.** - Electronic service is complete at the time of the electronic transmission of the document, or when available, at the time that the electronic notification of service of the document is sent. Electronic service is not effective or complete if the party serving the document learns that it did not reach the addressee or person to be served.

Proof shall be made by an affidavit of service executed by the person who sent the E-mail, together with a printed proof of transmittal, which shall form part of the records of the case.

(\*) the documents are transmitted to the intended parties pursuant to Section 11 (b), Rule 18 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure.

/nicostaana



Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Manila

ELECTORAL CONTESTS ADJUDICATION DEPARTMENT

FIRST DIVISION

ELMER FREDERICO T.  
CODILLA,

*Petitioner,*

-versus-

EPC NO. 017-2022

VINCENT L. RAMA,

*Respondent.*

x-----x

CERTIFICATE OF FINALITY

WHEREAS, the Commission (First Division) issued an *Order*<sup>1</sup> in the instant petition on December 15, 2025, the pertinent portion of which reads:

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant petition is hereby DISMISSED for being MOOT and ACADEMIC.

SO ORDERED.

WHEREAS, records show that the copies of the said *Order* were sent through *electronic mail* to the parties' counsel of record pursuant to Section 5, Rule 4 of Comelec Resolution No. 10673<sup>2</sup> on December 16, 2025<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Records, pages 137-138.

<sup>2</sup> Section 5, Rule 4. - *Service of Resolution and Final Orders.* - Resolutions or final orders of the Commission shall be served to all counsel or parties if not represented by counsel, concerned through their official E-mail addresses and/or E-mail addresses on record. Proof of receipt of such E-mail must be properly recorded and/or logged. Hard copies of these Resolutions or final orders may be provided upon written request of the parties subject to pertinent rules on fees and approval.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, at 139.

**WHEREAS**, no *Motion for Reconsideration* was filed by either of the parties within the period prescribed by *Section 2, Rule 20 of Comelec Resolution No. 8804 [Comelec Rules of Procedure on Disputes in an Automated Election System]*<sup>4</sup>.

**NOW THEREFORE**, considering the lapse of five (5) days since service<sup>5</sup> to the parties of the copies of the December 15, 2025 *Order of the Commission (First Division)* and pursuant to *Section 10, Rule 19* of the same *Rules*<sup>6</sup>, the said *Order* is hereby declared **FINAL** and **EXECUTORY**.

**ACCORDINGLY**, copies of this *Certificate of Finality* shall be sent to the President, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Chairman of the Commission on Audit and the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of District IV, Province of Leyte, in accordance with *Section 9, Rule 19* also of the same *Rules*<sup>7</sup>.

Given this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, Manila, Philippines.

**FOR THE DIVISION:**

  
FOR: MADEL M. TORRESA-EN  
**JAMILA T. BUNSA**  
*Division Clerk of Court*

<sup>4</sup> **Section 2, Rule 20. Period for Filing Motions for Reconsideration.** - A motion to reconsider a decision, resolution, order, or ruling of a Division shall be filed within five (5) days from the promulgation thereof. Such motion, if not *proforma*, suspends the execution or implementation of the decision, resolution, order or ruling.

<sup>5</sup> **Section 6, Rule 4. Proof and Completeness of Service to the Parties.** - Electronic service is complete at the time of the electronic transmission of the document, or when available, at the time that the electronic notification of service of the document is sent. Electronic service is not effective or complete if the party serving the document learns that it did not reach the addressee or person to be served.

<sup>6</sup> **Section 10, Rule 19. Finality of Decisions or Resolutions.** - Unless a motion for reconsideration is seasonably filed, a decision or resolution of a Division shall become final and executory after the lapse of five (5) days following its promulgation.

<sup>7</sup> **Section 9, Rule 19. Duty to Notify Other Agencies of the Government.** - As soon as a decision in an election protest becomes final and executory, notices thereof shall be sent to the President, the Secretary of Local Government, the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, and the Secretary of the Sangguniang Pampook in the case of regional officials, the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in the case of provincial officials, and the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panglungsod in the case of city officials.



Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Intramuros, Manila

ELECTORAL CONTESTS ADJUDICATION DEPARTMENT

ELMER FREDERICO T.  
CODILLA,

*Petitioner,*

*-versus-*

EPC NO. 017-2022

VINCENT L. RAMA,

*Respondent.*

x-----x

ENTRY OF JUDGMENT

This is to certify that *a)* on December 15, 2025, the Commission (First Division) issued an *Order* in the instant petition, the pertinent portion of which reads:

*WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant petition is hereby DISMISSED for being MOOT and ACADEMIC.*

*SO ORDERED.*

*b)* on January 6, 2026, the Division Clerk of Court issued the attached *Certificate of Finality* declaring the said *Order* as final and executory.

ACCORDINGLY, pursuant to the January 6, 2026 *Certificate of Finality* issued by the Division Clerk of Court, the *Order* of the Commission (First Division) issued on December 15, 2025 is hereby recorded in the *Book of Entries of Judgment*.

Given this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, Manila, Philippines.

  
ALLEN FRANCIS B. ABAYA  
Clerk of Court of the Commission



Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Intramuros, Manila

FIRST DIVISION

ELMER FREDERICO T.  
CODILLA,

*Petitioner,*

*-versus-*

EPC NO. 017-2022

VINCENT L. RAMA,

*Respondent.*

x-----x

ORDER

Considering that the May 12, 2025 National and Local Elections has already been concluded and the respective terms of office of all elected officials for said elections have already commenced, the instant petition filed in connection with the May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections is hereby rendered moot and academic. The expiration of the challenged term of office renders the corresponding petition moot.<sup>1</sup>

In the recent case of *Eric B. Africa v. Commission on Elections and Bernadette P. Sabili*, the Supreme Court held:

Moreover, the petition has also been rendered moot and academic by the expiry on June 30, 2022 of the disputed term of office for which Africa was elected. Settled is the rule that an election protest becomes moot and academic upon the expiration of the disputed term of office.

A moot and academic case is one that ceases to present a justiciable controversy by virtue of supervening events, so that a declaration thereon would be of no practical value. Since no legal relief is needed or called for, and because courts of justice

<sup>1</sup> Baldo, Jr. v. Comelec, G.R. No. 176135, June 16, 2009.

will not consider questions where no actual interests are involved, courts declined jurisdiction over such a case, or dismiss it on ground of mootness.<sup>2</sup>

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant petition is hereby **DISMISSED** for being **MOOT** and **ACADEMIC**.

**SO ORDERED.**

On 15 DEC 2025, City of Manila, Philippines.

  
**AIMEE P. FEROLINO**  
*Presiding Commissioner*

  
**ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.**  
*Commissioner*

  
**MARIA NORINA S. TANGARO-CASINGAL**  
*Commissioner*

<sup>2</sup> Eric B. Africa v. Commission on Elections [Second Division] and Bernadette P. Sabili, G.R. No. 257582, January 31, 2023.