

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ALFONSO K. CHAN TO BE
ADMITTED A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, PETITIONER-APPELLEE,
V.S. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, OPPOSITOR-APPELLANT.**

G.R. No. L-8913. July 24, 1956

Ponente: REYES, J.B.L., J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/4edc493d5462/>

REYES, J.B.L., J.:

On May 6, 1953, Alfonso K. Chan filed a petition for naturalization with the Court of First Instance of Davao. After due hearing, the lower Court rendered judgment granting Philippine citizenship to the applicant, the dispositive portion of which reads:

"WHEREFORE, the court declares the petitioner Alfonso K. Chan, for all Legal purposes, Filipino citizen by naturalization."

From this decision, the government appealed, alleging that the lower court erred in not following the provisions of Republic Act No. 530 concerning the manner of execution of judgment in naturalization cases.

The appeal must granted. Under Republic Act No. 530, before any decision granting an application for Philippine citizenship can be final and executory, it is necessary that two years from its promulgation elapse, and that-

"the court, on proper hearing, with the attendance of the Solicitor General or his representative, is satisfied, and so finds, that during the intervening time the applicant has (1) not left the Philippines, (2) has dedicated himself continuously to a lawful calling or profession, (3) has not been convicted of any offense or violation of Government promulgated rules, (4) or committed any act prejudicial to any Government announced policies." (Rep. Act No. 530, sec 1);

and even after compliance with such conditions, the applicant will become entitled to all the privileges of a Filipino citizen only after he takes the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines (Rep. Act No. 530, sec 2). It is possible that the trial court intended to have these legal provisions applied in this case, although the decision on its face could be interpreted as conferring upon the petitioner Alfonso K. Chan the status and privileges of a Filipino citizen without need of fulfilling the legal requirements. On the other hand, much expense and work for the government could have been avoided if the fiscal who represented it in the court below had simply asked for an amendment of the dispositive portion of the judgment as above indicated, instead of immediately prosecuting this appeal.

The dispositive portion of the judgment appealed from is hereby modified so as to declare the petitioner Alfonso K. Chan entitled to acquire Philippine citizenship upon fulfillment of all the legal requirements under Republic Act No. 530. Costs against appelle Alfonso K. Chan.

Paras, C.J., Bengzon, Padilla, Montemayor, Reyes, A., Bautista Angelo, Labrador, Concepcion, Reyes, J.B.L., and Endencia, JJ., concur.

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.