

**VICENTE D. TRINIDAD, EX-MAYOR OF IGUIG, CAGAYAN,
COMPLAINANT, VS. JUDGE GABRIEL O. VALLE, JR., COURT OF FIRST
INSTANCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, LAOAG CITY BRANCH II,
RESPONDENT.**

Adm. Mat. No. 2258-CFI. July 20, 1981

Ponente: AQUINO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/df22a2654dce/>

AQUINO, J.:

Vicente D. Trinidad, former mayor of Iguig, Cagayan, in his affidavit of August 6, 1979, charged Judge Gabriel O. Valle, Jr. of the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Norte (a native of Baggao, Cagayan) with having delivered a speech at a conference of barangay captains in the house of Mayor Proceso Maramag at Iguig, advising them to support the leadership of Maramag and Minister of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile.

The charge was supported by the affidavits of Caridad D. Trinidad, Pablo Calagui, Peregrino Abana, Santos Mina and Felipe Banatao.

Judge Valle happened to be in Iguig at that time because he was rendering rural service. He admitted that he delivered a speech in Uocano but he denied that he favored Maramag.

According to his version, he told the barangay captains that because former Mayor Trinidad was allegedly his cousin and Maramag had been his colleague in the fiscal's office, he had no comment to make. He said that he enjoined the barangay captains to "follow the doctrine of the New Society" and to "vote honestly."

We find that it was improper or indecorous for Judge Valle to have taken part in the political meeting held in Maramag's house. He should have realized that his mere presence there would be construed as an endorsement of Maramag as against complainant Trinidad and that such behavior would render him vulnerable to the charge of electioneering.

The Constitution provides that "no officer or employee in the Civil Service, including members of the armed forces, shall engage directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity or take part in any election except to vote." [Sec. 5, Art. XII (B)].

That prohibition is repeated in section 36(b)(26) of Presidential Decree No. 807, the Civil Service Decree of the Philippines.

As rightly observed by the complainant, a sense of delicadeza should have deterred Judge Valle from attending that political meeting. Notwithstanding respondent's disclaimer, the record contains strong indications that he was engaged in partisan political activity when he attended the political meeting in the house of Mayor Maramag.

WHEREFORE, a fine equivalent to his compensation for seven days is imposed on respondent judge.

A copy of this resolution should be attached to his personal record,

Barredo (Chairman), Fernandez, Abad Santos and De Castro, 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.