



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**SENATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL**  
COA-NCR Bldg., Batasan Road, Quezon City

**FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO,**  
Protestant,

-versus-

**SET Case No. 001-16**

**LEILA M. DE LIMA,**  
Protestee.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 82**

Resolution No. 16-65, dated 14 September 2017, which set the commencement of the revision proceedings on 16 October 2017, also fixed the compensation of the Head Revisors (HR) at One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) for every ballot box the contents of which are examined, and the Alternate Head Revisors (AHR), acting as such, at One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) per day.

In setting such compensation rates, it was envisioned that each revision team would be able to comply with Rule 40 of the Rules and Procedures Governing the Revision of Ballots under the Automated Election System (Revision Rules), which requires each revision team to revise not less than two (2) ballot boxes every revision day. The quota of two (2) ballot boxes a day ensured the HR a compensation of at least Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) per day.

During the revision proceedings, however, it was observed that the quota of two (2) ballot boxes a day is no longer realistic due to various factors. The number of ballots inside the ballot boxes, which used to average 100 ballots under the manual election system, now ranges from 100 to 800 ballots. The time needed to complete the revision process, which used to average two (2) hours, now ranges from two (2) hours to ten (10) hours.

Directly contributing to the increase in the length of time of the revision process are two steps; namely, the determination of over-votes for the position of Senator and the segregation of the Voters' Receipts.

To determine the existence of ballots with over-votes for the position of Senator, the HR has to go over each and every ballot to determine if more than twelve (12) candidates have been voted. This takes a considerable period of time, for unlike in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), where verification of over-votes takes little time as the HR only has to check if more than one oval had been shaded for the position involved, the SET HR has to count all the shaded ovals for the position of senator to find out if they number more than 12.

The additional step of the segregation of the Voters' Receipts takes as much time as the segregation of the ballots themselves.

In light of these altered conditions in the revision proceedings, there are numerous instances that an HR could not finish the revision of one ballot box in a day. This means that the HR does not receive any compensation for that particular day. Under these circumstances, the AHR, who is paid on a daily basis instead of on a ballot box basis, appears to be in a better position.

There is therefore a need to revise and rationalize the compensation rate of the HR.

Checking on the prevailing rates, it was gathered that the current rate given to the head revisors in the HRET and COMELEC is Php1,000 per day. However, the time allotted to them to complete the revision process depends on the number of ballots, as follows:

No. of Ballots	HR Compensation	No. of days to complete
Not more than 300	Php1,000	1 day
More than 500	Php1,500	1.5 days
More than 700	Php2,000	2 days

Considering, however, that a senatorial protest involves more ballot boxes compared to HRET and COMELEC cases which are confined only to a district or to a municipality, the Tribunal cannot adopt the aforesaid time frame. The SET Revision Teams have to expedite the revision process.

Based on a review of the accomplishment reports of the HRs which showed that the two - ballot box quota per day could be accomplished only if the ballot boxes contained not more than 300 ballots, the compensation of the HR is hereby adjusted, as follows:

Number of Ballots	Compensation of Head Revisor
Below 100	Php800
Below 200	Php900
201 -300	Php1,000
301-400	Php1,200
401-500	Php1,400
501-600	Php1,600
601-700	Php1,800
701 or more	Php2,000

In the special case of wet ballots, the time consumed in detaching one ballot at a time and drying it for revision purposes shall be taken into account, and the compensation of the HR shall be adjusted accordingly, as follows:

Time Consumed	Compensation of HR
4 hours or below	Php1,000
>4 to 5 hours	Php1,200
>5 to 6 hours	Php1,400
>6 to 7 hours	Php1,600
>7 to 8 hours	Php1,800
>8 hours	Php2,000

In the event that the contents of the ballot box that is examined do not pertain to the 2016 National and Local Elections, the Head Revisor shall receive only Php300.00 for that particular ballot box.

These adjusted rates shall apply retroactively to the start of the revision proceedings on 18 October 2017. The increments hereby authorized shall be

borne by Protestant Tolentino and shall be charged against his cash deposit with the Tribunal. The Canvass Board Service shall coordinate with the Financial Management Service for the adjustments of the HR compensation.

Due to the inability of the revision teams to meet the two-ballot boxes a day per team quota upon which it was based, the number of revision days for 650 ballot boxes has to be adjusted as well. Using the average of 25 ballot boxes revised by the 20 revision teams per day, which is way below the expected completion rate of 40 ballot boxes per day, an additional ten (10) days must be given to the estimated revision period of sixteen (16) days stated in Resolution No. 16-65.

A longer revision period necessarily translates into an increase in the cost of revision to cover the compensation of the Alternate Head Revisors during the additional number of revision days. As the compensation of the AHR is shared equally by the parties, there is a need for the Protestee to deposit her one-half share in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) computed as follows: 4 AHRs @ Php1,000.00 / day x 10 days / 2. Protestant's share shall be taken from his cash deposit

**IN VIEW THEREOF**, the Tribunal Resolves to **ADJUST** the compensation of the Head Revisors in accordance with the schedule aforesaid and **REQUIRE** Protestant Tolentino to shoulder the increments hereto authorized.

Protestee de Lima is **REQUIRED** to deposit her share in the compensation of Alternate Head Revisors in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) within two (2) days from receipt of this Resolution.

**SO ORDERED.**

22 November 2017.



**ANTONIO T. CARPIO**  
Senior Associate Justice  
Chairperson

  
TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO  
Associate Justice  
Member

  
LUCAS P. BERSAMIN  
Associate Justice  
Member

  
MARIA LOURDES "NANCY" S. BINAY  
Senator  
Member

  
GRACE L. POE  
Senator  
Member

  
RICHARD J. GORDON  
Senator  
Member

  
JOEL VILLANUEVA  
Senator  
Member

  
FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
Senator  
Member

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator  
Member