

April 24, 2008

MR. PEDRO E. MENDEZ
No. Z-1327, Sitio Nonok
Tabunok, Talisay City
6045 Cebu

Dear Mr. Mendez:

This has reference to your letter dated April 14, 2008, furnishing us a copy of your complaint filed with the Punong Barangay of T. Padilla, Cebu City under the katarungay pambarangay against Spouses Manuel Villarín and Punciana Villarín for ejection and collection of unpaid rental.

We have observed in your letter that the return address placed therein is in Tabunok, Talisay City. If indeed you are residing in Tabunok, Talisay City, please be advised that you need not bring your cause of action against the respondents before the katarungang pambarangay and instead you may file a case against them directly in court. Section 408(f) of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that **disputes involving parties who actually reside in barangays of different cities or municipalities** are among the exceptions of the authority of the lupon to settle. Moreover, our Department does not have the authority to order, command and/or direct the Punong Barangay in the administration of the katarungang pambarangay such as the choice of lupon member to mediate a particular case. Our Department only provides guidance through rendering of opinion and the conduct of training when requested.

Truly yours,

PEDRO A. NOVAL, JR.
Regional Director

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