

February 23, 2009

HON. RAMON R. EWICAN
Vice Mayor
Barili Municipal Hall
6036 Cebu

Dear Vice Mayor Ewican:

This has reference to your letter dated February 20, 2009, on the leave of absence of Hon. Joel B. Villaflor, a member of the sangguniang bayan of Barili.

As reported, Councilor J. Villamor applied for a leave of absence to take effect on August 01, 2008, in connection with a personal trip abroad. He has then left and is still there even up to this date. However, his application for leave was not acted upon by the Mayor.

As provided in Article 84 of the Rules and Regulations Implementing the Local Government Code of 1991, leaves of absence of the members of the sanggunian and appointive employees therein shall be approved by the vice-governor or city or municipal vice mayor concerned. Maybe this is the reason why the Mayor did not act on the application for leave of absence of Councilor J. Villaflor. But he could have forwarded said application to the appropriate approving authority. Article 84 of the same rules further provides that whenever the application for leave of absence is not acted upon within 5 working days after receipt thereof, such application shall be deemed approved.

As stated in your letter, the reason why Councilor J. Villaflor applied for a leave of absence was in connection with his trip abroad. Under DILG MC 2001-52 dated May 08, 2001, personal trip or travel abroad of local officials exceeding a period of three months shall require the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. We hope Councilor J. Villaflor was able to comply with this requirement before he pursued his foreign travel.

Truly yours,

PEDRO A. NOVAL, JR.
Regional Director

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