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NEWS RELEASE

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Villar: SC ruling on C5 complaint a vindication

Sen. Manny Villar today said he felt vindicated with the Supreme Court decision stating that the Ethics committee did not comply with due process when it referred the complaint involving the C5 Road project to the Committee of the Whole.

In a 19-page decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, with 13 justices concurring, the Supreme Court said “The referral of the complaint by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to the Senate Committee of the Whole shall take effect only upon publication of the Rules of the Senate Committee of the Whole.”

“That’s what we have been saying noon pa, mali ang prosesong. May requirement na kailangan i-publish muna ang rules at hindi ito nagawa. Nakita mo noon na pinilit kasi iba ang political atmosphere noong panahon na iyon dahil tumatakbo akong presidente,” he said.

Records would show that there was no publication of the rules therefore all acts done were invalid. In fact, corrections in the rules were introduced both in the Ethics and COW but they were never published, he added.

“However, this is now moot and academic. The C5 issue is automatically terminated when the 14th Congress lapsed,” Villar said, citing the case of Neri vs. Blue Ribbon, GR 180643, which states that the closure of the 14th Congress terminates all pending legislations and investigations.

For his part, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile agreed that the matter is already moot and academic.

“It’s too late. The case can no longer be taken up because wala na iyong iba na nag-imbestiga dito. May mga bago nang dumating na members and that was done in the previous Congress. I-aarchive na lang ito,” Enrile said.

Villar maintains that he did not commit any irregularity when he initiated the C5 Road project which greatly improved the traffic situation in the South of Metro Manila.##