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IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU  
TRIAL DIVISION

SUPREME COURT  
OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF PALAU

REPUBLIC OF PALAU (ROP), )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 MARIA GATES-MELTEL, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )  
 )

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 18-249

JUDGMENT and  
SENTENCE

*Appearances:*

*April Dawn Cripps, Special Prosecutor  
and Jacob Gordin, Assistant Special Prosecutor  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff ROP*

*James Hanley, Chief Public Defender  
Attorney for Defendant Gates*

*Before: Presiding Justice Oldiais Ngiraikelau*

On December 20, 2018, the Republic of Palau filed a multi-count information charging Defendant with one count of *Cheating*, two counts of *Criminal Violation of the Code of Ethics*, and three counts of *Misconduct in Public Office*. The Defendant pleaded not guilty and the matter proceeded to trial on January 20-21, 2020.

Based on the evidence presented at trial and for the reasons stated on the record, the Court dismisses Count Three, Criminal

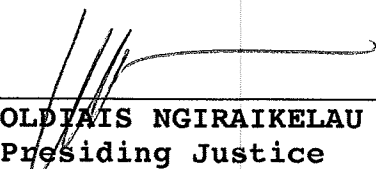
Violation of the Code of Ethics, and Counts Five and Six, Misconduct in Public Office.

The evidence adduced at trial established however, and the Court finds, that Defendant Meltel authorized and procured, by false pretenses, Angaur State funds in the amount of \$304.80 for her own benefit. Having considered all the evidence and arguments of counsel, the Court finds Defendant Meltel guilty of Count Two, *Criminal Violation of the Code of Ethics*, and Count Four, *Misconduct in Public Office*.

Given the foregoing convictions, the Court sentences defendant to one (1) year supervised probation. Defendant shall comply with the mandatory conditions of probation. The Probation Office shall provide the Defendant with a written copy of the conditions.

Defendant is also ordered to pay restitution to Angaur State in the amount of \$304.80 within three (3) months from the date of this judgment.

SO ORDERED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

  
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OLDIRIS NGIRAIKELAU  
Presiding Justice