

RESOLUTION NO. 001117

Director III Buenafe Alinio, Civil Service Commission-Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City, requests that she be paid Representation and Transportation Allowance (RATA), during her scholarship at the University of Manchester from September 1993 to July 1994.

Portions of her letter-request are, as follows:

"In 1993, I was granted a scholarship award from the British Council to undertake a 9-month study at the University of Manchester. This was during the months of September 1993 up to July 1994. The Civil Service Commission officially sanctioned the travel. I was then the Division Chief of the Recruitment, Examination and Placement Division and as such was supposed to be receiving the RATA. The Regional Office then did not pay me my RATA on the contention that the RATA is to be paid only if I was rendering service to the Office and since I was on scholarship, I was not supposed to receive the said benefit. I did not question the Office then believing that that is the policy. It was only during the conduct of the ROCES III (sic) that I learned of a ruling of the Commission which maintains that RATA is covered by the term salary and the non-payment of the same results in reduction of salary which cannot be allowed under the Civil Service Law and Rules (CSC Resolution No. 96-2411 dated April 3, 1996)."

The issue to be resolved in the instant case is whether or not there is legal basis to pay Alinio her RATA while on a scholarship grant.

In **CSC Resolution No. 93-5587**, the Commission ruled that:

"RATA is attached to the position and not to the person. It is a right arising out of the employees' appointments as a Division Chief (sic). xxx "

Since RATA is attached to the position of Alinio, as the then Division Chief of the Recruitment, Examination and Placement Division of CSRO No. 1, there could be no reason why RATA should not be paid to her while she was on scholarship at the University of Manchester – United Kingdom. Since RATA is part of Alinio's salary, a contrary ruling will

result to the diminution of her salary.

In this regard, Item 3.4 of the National Compensation Circular (NCC) No. 67 dated January 1, 1992, provides:

"However, officials and employees who are on authorized attendance at a training course/scholarship grant/seminar or any other similar activity, which is tantamount to the performance of their regular duties and responsibilities, may be authorized to continue to collect RATA on reimbursable basis, subject to availability of funds."

WHEREFORE, the request of Director III Buenafe Alinio for the payment of her Representation and Transportation Allowance RATA for the months of September 1993 to July 1994 during her scholarship at the University of Manchester is hereby GRANTED.

Quezon City, MAY 03 2000

(SGD.)
CORAZON ALMA G. DE LEON
Chairman

(SGD.)
JOSE F. ERESTAIN, JR.
Commissioner

Attested by:

(SGD.)
ARIEL G. RONQUILLO
Director III