



INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

A PRAYERFUL HOPE

As the impeachment proceedings of Chief Justice Corona unfold at the Senate, the IBP expresses its prayerful hope for a fair trial and credible outcome.

There is no dispute that impeachment is both a political and constitutional process. It is political because it is undertaken by the political branches of government. It is constitutional because it is a mechanism for public accountability as enshrined in the Constitution itself. As such, it must adhere to the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection of the law to ensure a fair trial and credible outcome.

Political partisanship and considerations have no place in the impeachment trial. The Senate's own Rules on Impeachment clearly spell this out. -- As an impeachment court, the Senator-judges "should observe political neutrality," or without regard to "party affiliation or preference". Even more emphatic is the solemn oath taken by the Senator-judges in hearing the case of Chief Justice Corona-- "to do **impartial justice** according to the **Constitution** and the law of the Philippines". And an impartial justice can only be based on facts and evidence and not on personal sentiments or swings of public opinion.

As sentinel of law and democracy, the IBP assures our people that it will keep vigil in this critical moment in our democracy. To carry out this resolve, the IBP is launching an **IBP Impeachment Watch** and **IBP Impeachment Communications Group** to keep the public informed.

We call on the public to join in prayer with the IBP in its vigil for fair and credible impeachment proceedings consistent with the Rule of Law.