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CA rejects Cojuangco-Okada plea for TRO vs PAGCOR

TRAL-backed board conducts regular meeting, Kazuo Okada a no-show

The Court of Appeals (CA) has denied the urgent motion of Kazuo Okada for a temporary restraining order to stop the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) from implementing its 02 September 2022 order.

The CA's resolution dated 07 September 2022 effectively allows the reinstated legitimate board to continue exercising operational and management control of Okada Manila.

In denying Kazuo Okada's motion, the appellate court recognized its limited capacity to receive evidence pertinent to the pending motion for reconsideration and clarification of the Status Quo Ante Order (SQAQO) and to the main issue of Kazuo's petition.

The PAGCOR order, which was guided by the Department of Justice (DOJ), maintained: (1) their power and authority to act upon the issue as a regulatory board over all persons primarily engaged in gambling, and; (2) that the SQAQO of the Supreme Court mandated only the return or Mr. Okada as a stockholder, director, chairman, and CEO of TRLEI.

"We thank the Court of Appeals for seeing the wisdom behind the order of the PAGCOR on the implementation of the Supreme Court's SQAQO. This resolution empowered us to exercise our operational and management duties over Okada Manila," Atty. Carlos Ocampo, Legal Counsel of Tiger Resort Asia Ltd. (TRAL), said.

On Wednesday, the legitimate board of directors of TRLEI conducted its regular meeting since it assumed control over operations and management of the property on September 2.

Kazuo Okada, who is temporarily recognized as stockholder, chief executive officer, and chairman, was invited to the meeting. His invitation is in respect to the Supreme Court's status quo ante order (SQAQO) and the Philippine Gaming and Amusements Corp.'s (PAGCOR) order last week.

Only Kazuo Okada and his interpreter are allowed to enter Okada Manila. Tonyboy Cojuangco, Dindo Espeleta, and other members of the ousted illegally-constituted board are barred from entering the property. Okada, however, did not join the board meeting in person or via video conference.

“The meeting was peacefully conducted,” according to Hans Van der Sande, CFO and Board Director of TRLEI. “It was a successful exercise of our administrative and operational management to bring the business back into the normal course of operations.”