

Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

To: RTC, Br. 06, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 09, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 17, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 21, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 79, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 80, Malolos City  
RTC, Br. 81, Malolos City  
MTC, Guiguinto

Subject: Pilot-Testing the Use of Filipino in Trial Court Proceedings

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution guarantees free access to courts as well as the right to a speedy disposition of the cases. However, the use of English in court proceedings has, in some cases in our trial courts, delayed such proceedings. Furthermore, the use of English in court proceedings has intimidated and alienated some of our unlettered countrymen from the judiciary, thus, denying their access to the courts.

The Constitution mandates that the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English. It is high time that the judiciary give meaning to this constitutional mandate by using Filipino in court proceedings starting at the trial court level. The trial courts in the province of Bulacan have pioneered in the use of Filipino in court proceedings. Furthermore, the Marcelo H. Del Pilar College of Law of the Bulacan State University has trained some of



the court stenographers in Malolos City to be proficient in the Filipino version of shorthand writing.

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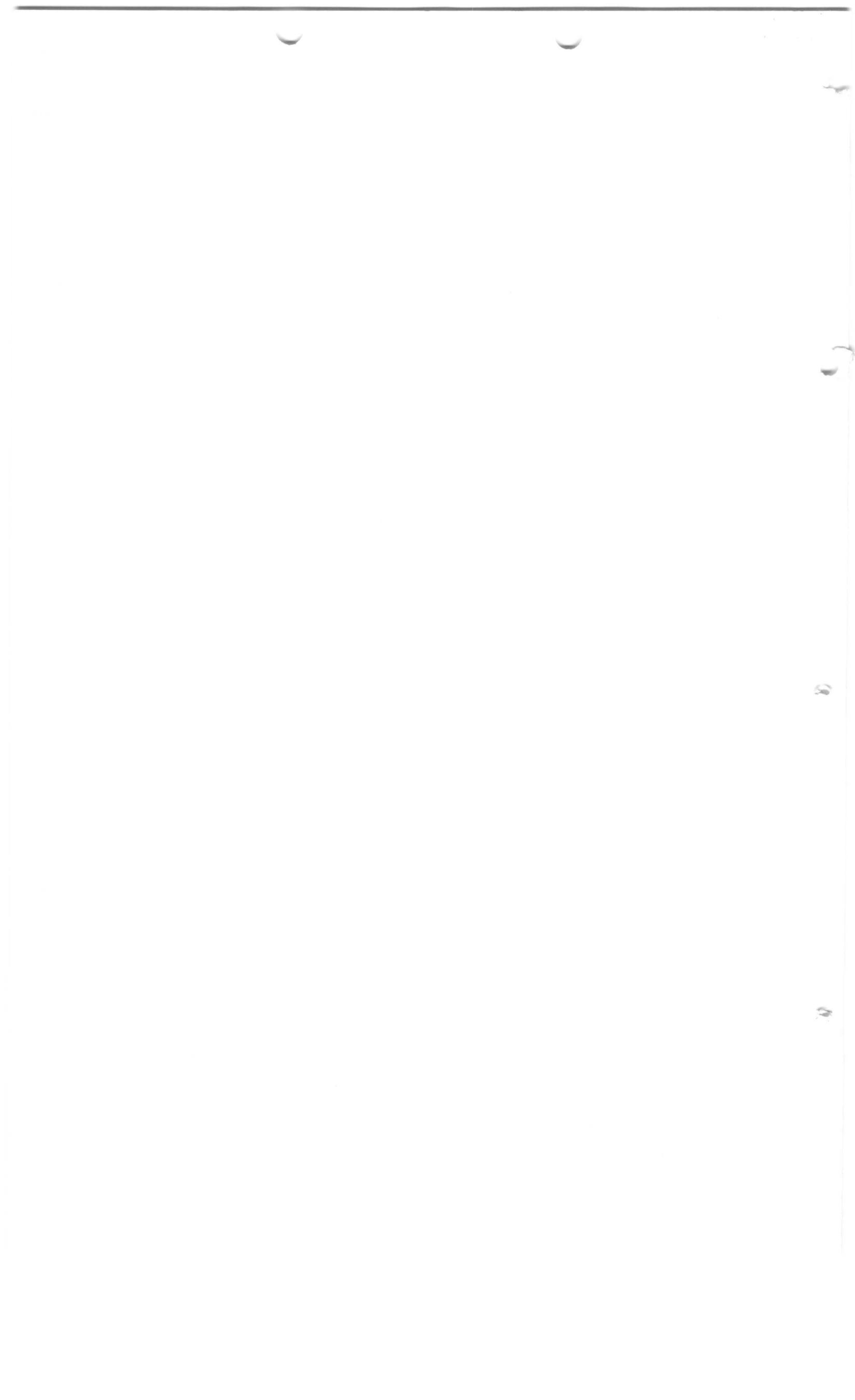
Therefore, it is necessary to pilot test the use of Filipino in trial courts to determine the feasibility of using it in court proceedings initially in the Tagalog-speaking regions, and the trial courts in Malolos City are in the best position to do this.

#### DESIGNATION

Therefore, Seven (7) Regional Trial Courts in Malolos City, namely Branch 06, Branch 09, Branch 17, Branch 21, Branch 79, Branch 80, Branch 81, and one in Guiguinto, Bulacan, are hereby designated as pilot courts to determine what problems, if any, may arise in the course of the pilot tests.

#### MECHANICS AND GUIDELINES

1. In appropriate cases and with the consent of the litigants, the pilot courts shall use Filipino in the hearing and resolution of motions and in the conduct of pre-trial conferences, trials, and rendition of judgments.
2. Judges in the designated pilot courts shall note the problems they encounter with the use of Filipino in their respective salas, including their comments and observation as well as their suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the use of Filipino in court proceedings, which shall be included in their report to PHILJA.
3. The designated pilot courts will render a written report of the results of the experiment to PHILJA, at the end of a six-month period from the start of the implementation of this Administrative Circular.
4. The judges in the pilot courts may use existing translations of laws, rules and legal lexicons. However, technical terms and latin phrases need not be translated to Filipino.



5. The stenographers in the designated pilot courts who have not been trained in Filipino short-hand shall be allowed to take said course on official time, as may be offered by the Marcelo H. Del Pilar College of Law of the Bulacan State University.

6. Lawyers of litigants in designated pilot courts shall be given the option of writing their pleadings either in Filipino or in English:

