



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

CIRCULAR NO. 5-90

TO: ALL JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND SANDIGANBAYAN, ALL JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: Guidelines to be Observed in All Courts Within the Earthquake-Devastated Areas and by Practising Lawyers Who Have Been Generally Affected by the Tragic Earthquake of July 16, 1990.

As a result of the devastating earthquake that hit various parts of Central and Northern Luzon last July 16, 1990, the Court has been informed that many courts and law offices in the disaster areas are still in a state of disarray. The provinces and cities, which have been declared as calamity areas, are : La Union, Pangasinan, Benguet, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Tarlac, and the cities of Dagupan, San Carlos, Baguio, Cabanatuan, Palayan, San Jose and Bayombong.

Work and activity in those localities have not returned to normal. Courts are finding it difficult to resolve pending incidents within periods required by law and/or Supreme Court circulars. Lawyers are likewise unable to prepare and file pleadings and meet deadlines mandated by law and the Rules of Court.

Aware of these difficulties, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

1. The period for filing of pleadings as well as the issuance of orders, resolutions and decisions by courts in the above calamity areas, including the filing of pleadings with this Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Sandiganbayan, is hereby suspended for thirty (30) days from July 16, 1990, subject to the grant of extension by this Court as circumstances may warrant.

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2. Courts are, however, enjoined to act with dispatch on urgent matters, such as, petitions for habeas corpus.

This circular shall take effect immediately.

Let a copy of this circular be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

Manila, July 26, 1990.



MARCELO B. FERNAN
Chief Justice