



**Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila**

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

CIRCULAR NO. 56-92

T O : ALL JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS,
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS; MUNICIPAL TRIAL
COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS
AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS

SUBJECT : SPEEDY DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASES WITH
DETENTION PRISONERS AND WITH WITNESS
PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT (WPSB)
WITNESSES

The attention of this Court was invited by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Committee of the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program, Department of Justice, Manila, on the alarming number of detainees/prisoners in the City and Municipal Jails nationwide, due to slow disposition of criminal cases pending in our courts.

In order to minimize the delay in resolving cases, all judges are enjoined to act promptly on cases pending in their respective salas, particularly, criminal cases involving detention prisoners, pursuant to the mandate of Administrative Circular No. 4, dated September 22, 1988. Furthermore, you are hereby directed to faithfully observe Section 9 of RA 6981, Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act (WPSB), which provides:

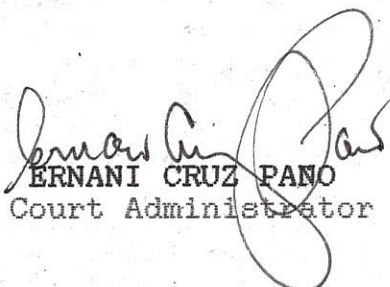
"Section 9. Speedy Hearing or Trial. - In any case where a Witness admitted into the Program shall testify, the judicial or quasi-judicial body or investigating authority shall assure a speedy

hearing or trial and shall endeavor to finish said processing within three (3) months from the filing of the case."

On this account, inventory of court dockets is hereby directed to determine the number of pending cases with detention prisoners and wherein WPSB witnesses are presently testifying and to give said cases preferential attention.

Strict observance is enjoined.

October 5, 1992.


ERNANI CRUZ PANO
Court Administrator

MBC/MSD/beth
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