



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 130-2020

TO : ALL CONCERNED JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL SINGLE-SALA COURTS

RE : AUTHORITY OF ALL SINGLE-SALA COURTS TO CONDUCT VIDEOCONFERENCING HEARINGS

In A.C. No. 37-2020, all courts in the National Capital Judicial Region and in the key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were authorized to pilot-test the videoconferencing hearings of urgent matters in cases involving persons deprived of liberty. In A.C. Nos. 39-2020 and 40-2020, the authority was expanded to cover "ALL matters pending before (them), in both criminal and civil cases, whether newly-filed or pending, regardless of the stage of trial." And, in OCA Circular Nos. 96-2020 and 100-2020, additional courts nationwide were authorized to pilot-test the conduct of videoconferencing hearings.

From 4 May 2020 to 7 August 2020, some 47,676 videoconferencing hearings have been conducted by the authorized courts, with a success rate of 85%.

Considering however that the entire country has been under different levels of quarantine for some five (5) months now, court action on pending cases before courts which have not been authorized to conduct videoconferencing hearings has been delayed. Hence, there is a need to authorize more courts to conduct videoconferencing hearings.

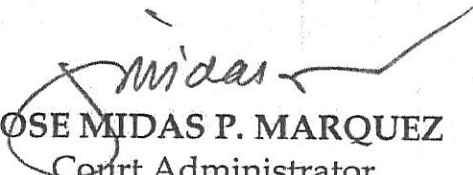
In OCA Circular No. 92-2020, all 1,025 single-sala courts have been provided with Philippine Judiciary 365 accounts which would enable them to conduct videoconferencing hearings. However, only

143 single-sala courts were authorized so far to conduct videoconferencing hearings.

In view of the foregoing, and with the approval of Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta, all 882 single-sala courts which have not yet been authorized to conduct video conferencing hearings, but have been provided with Philippine Judiciary 365 accounts, are hereby now **AUTHORIZED** to pilot-test and conduct videoconferencing hearings on all matters pending before them, in both criminal and civil cases regardless of the stage of the trial in accordance with existing circulars and guidelines not inconsistent herewith

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned.

14 August 2020


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator