



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 114 - 2021

TO: ALL JUSTICES OF THE APPELLATE COLLEGIATE COURTS,
JUDGES OF THE SECOND AND FIRST LEVEL COURTS,
COURT PERSONNEL THEREOF, AND COURT USERS

RE: COURT OPERATIONS STARTING 23 AUGUST 2021

Considering that the National Capital Region (NCR) has been placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) beginning 21 August 2021, upon instructions of Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo and pursuant to Administrative Circular (AC) No. 56-2021, dated 30 July 2021, all courts in the NCR, except the Supreme Court, shall be **PHYSICALLY CLOSED** to court users for the duration of the MECQ. They shall continue to operate online and conduct videoconferencing hearings only for urgent incidents and cases, such as, but not limited to, applications for bail, releases due to dismissal of cases or acquittal, *habeas corpus*, applications for temporary protection orders for Violence Against Women and Children cases, and analogous circumstances. The said courts may be reached through their respective hotlines and email addresses as posted in the Supreme Court website.

The time for filing and service of pleadings and motions during this period is **SUSPENDED** and shall resume after seven (7) calendar days counted from the first day of the physical reopening of the relevant court.

The essential judicial offices in all courts shall maintain the necessary skeleton staff to attend to all **URGENT** matters and concerns.

The applicable provisions of AC No. 56-2021 not inconsistent herewith shall continue to remain in force for all courts and judicial offices outside the NCR until further notice.

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned.

20 August 2021


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator