



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 127-2021

TO : ALL JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

SUBJECT : PRIORITIZATION OF CASES AND USE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In His Honor's message given during the Philippine Judges Association's First Virtual Convention held on 29 - 30 September 2021, Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo enjoined judges "to give primacy to cases involving women and children; cases with urgent reliefs, such as (cases where) applications for temporary restraining order, writ of preliminary injunction, and protection orders (were granted), (and applications for) writ of *habeas corpus*, writ of *amparo* and *habeas data*, and writ of *kalikasan*; cases that involve government expropriation and infrastructure projects (including energy transmission projects); commercial- and economic-impact cases; as well as motions and interlocutory incidents that affect the liberty of the accused in criminal cases, and the integrity and dignity of human life in all cases."

Judges were also urged to "strongly encourage litigants to resort to mediation, judicial dispute resolution, and other forms of alternative dispute resolutions, in and out of the court" in order to dispose of cases "with less time and effort on [the judges'] part, and with less expense on the part of the litigants."

Given the foregoing, all judges shall prioritize and expedite the resolution of the aforementioned cases and encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for speedier disposition of cases.

13 October 2021


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator