



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

Please take notice that the Court en banc issued a Resolution dated AUGUST 7, 2018, which reads as follows:

“A.M. No. 18-07-25-SC

**DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL COURTS TO
SPECIFICALLY HEAR, TRY, AND DECIDE CASES
INVOLVING CRIMES PUNISHABLE UNDER
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9851**

WHEREAS, Section 18, Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which took effect on 11 December 2009, provides that the “Regional Trial Court [RTC] of the Philippines shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over the crimes punishable under this act. Their judgments may be appealed or elevated to the Court of Appeals and to the Supreme Court as provided by law. The Supreme Court shall designate special courts to try cases involving crimes punishable under this Act;”

WHEREAS, considering the proliferation of reported cases concerning armed insurgency groups and the foreseen increase in the number of IHL cases to be filed before the RTCs, there is a need to designate special courts to hear, try, and decide cases involving crimes punishable under Section 18, R.A. 9851;

WHEREAS, eleven (11) RTCs spread across the country may be initially designated as “IHL courts” to hear, try, and decide cases involving crimes punishable under R.A. 9851, which number may be increased should there be a rapid influx of IHL cases;

WHEREAS, the designated IHL courts shall have jurisdiction over cases involving crimes punishable under R.A. 9851 committed in their respective territorial jurisdictions. Should a crime punishable under the said law be committed outside the territorial jurisdiction of the IHL court, and transfer of venue becomes necessary to avoid a miscarriage of justice, the hearing of cases shall be transferred to any of the designated IHL courts, upon order of the Court; and,


WHEREAS, the designation of the IHL courts is in timely observance and celebration of the IHL month this August.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Court has resolved, as it hereby resolves, to **DESIGNATE** the following RTCs as special IHL courts to hear, try, and decide cases involving crimes punishable under R.A. 9851 committed in their respective territorial jurisdictions:

- a) Branch 70, RTC Taguig City – presided by Acting Presiding Judge Felix P. Reyes;
- b) Branch 266, RTC Taguig City – presided by Acting Presiding Judge Divinagracia B. Ongkeko;
- c) Branch 14, RTC Laoag, Ilocos Norte – presided by Executive Judge Francisco Roberto D. Quilala;
- d) Branch 56, RTC Angeles City, Pampanga – presided by Judge Irin Zenaida S. Buan;
- e) Branch 53, RTC Lucena, Quezon – presided by Executive Judge Dennis Galahad C. Orendain;
- f) Branch 3, RTC Legazpi City, Albay – presided by Acting Presiding Judge Rofebar F. Gerona;
- g) Branch 83, RTC Mandaue City, Cebu – presided by Presiding Judge Allan Francisco S. Garciano;
- h) Branch 44, RTC Tacloban City, Leyte – presided by Vice Executive Judge Eligio P. Petilla;
- i) Branch 16, RTC Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur – presided by Presiding Judge Catherine C. Fabian;
- j) Branch 25, RTC Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental – presided by Presiding Judge Arthur L. Abudiente; and,
- k) Branch 11, RTC Davao City, Davao del Sur – presided by Presiding Judge Leo T. Madrazo.

These designations shall take effect immediately.” Caguioa, J., on official leave.
(adv8)

Very truly yours,


EDGAR O. ARICHETA
Clerk of Court

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