



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 62-2020

**TO : ALL JUSTICES OF THE THIRD LEVEL COURTS  
AND JUDGES OF THE SECOND AND FIRST LEVEL  
COURTS**

**SUBJECT : SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF ORDERS OF  
VOLUNTARY INHIBITION**

Due to persistent reports that some Justices and Judges have been voluntarily inhibiting from cases assigned or raffled to them on grounds that are neither just nor valid, all Justices of the third level courts and Judges of the second and first level courts are **REMINDED** of their duties to “perform their judicial duties without favor, bias or prejudice”<sup>1</sup> and to “carry out judicial duties with appropriate consideration for all persons, such as the parties, witnesses, lawyers, court staff and judicial colleagues, without differentiation on any irrelevant ground, immaterial to the proper performance of such duties.”<sup>2</sup>

In order to effectively monitor voluntary inhibitions, whether *motu proprio* or on motion of parties, all Justices of the third level courts and Judges of the second and first level courts are hereby **REQUIRED** to submit to the Office of the Chief Justice, copy furnished the Office of the Court Administrator, copies of all orders of voluntary inhibition **within 5 days from issuance of such orders**.

Soft copies of the said orders shall be emailed to:

[inhibitions@sc.judiciary.gov.ph](mailto:inhibitions@sc.judiciary.gov.ph)

**AND** hard copies shall be mailed through the regular postal service to:

Office of the Chief Justice  
2nd Floor Supreme Court New Building  
Padre Faura St., Ermita  
Manila 1000

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1, Canon 3 Impartiality, *New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary*, A.M. No. 03-05-01-SC (27 April 2004).

<sup>2</sup> Section 3, Canon 5 Equality, *New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary*, A.M. No. 03-05-01-SC (27 April 2004).

*Copy furnished:*

Office of the Court Administrator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Old Supreme Court Building  
Padre Faura St., Ermita  
Manila 1000

While Section 1, Rule 137 of the Rules of Court provides that “[a] judge may, in the exercise of his sound discretion, disqualify himself from sitting in a case,” case law teaches us that this “does not give the judge the unfettered discretion to decide whether he should desist from hearing a case. The inhibition must be for just and valid causes. The mere imputation of bias or partiality is not enough grounds for a judge to inhibit, especially when it is without any basis.”<sup>3</sup>

For strict compliance.

18 February 2020



**DIOSDADO M. PERALTA**  
Chief Justice

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<sup>3</sup> *People v. Kho*, 409 PHIL 326-337 (2001), *Chin v. Court of Appeals*, 456 PHIL 440-453 (2003), and *Spouses Abrajano v. Heirs of Salas, Jr.*, 517 PHIL 663-676 (2006).