



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 310-2022

TO : ALL JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

SUBJECT: PRIORITIZING AND EXPEDITING THE TAKING OF TESTIMONIES OF POLICE-WITNESSES IN CASES PENDING BEFORE THE COURTS

OCA Circular No. 05-2012 dated 16 January 2012 (Re: Observance of the One-day Examination of Witness Rule), in the interest of crime prevention and administration of criminal justice, underlined the importance of giving priority in the witness stand to police officers who are witnesses in a particular case so as not to hamper the administrative and operational performance of the offices or units of the said police officers. Thus, all trial court judges were exhorted to observe the provision on One-Day Examination of Witness Rule under A.M. No. 03-1-09-SC (Rule on Guidelines to be Observed by the Trial Court Judges and Clerks of Court in the Conduct of Pre-Trial and Use of Deposition-Discovery Measures) in all cases particularly those involving police-witnesses.

As a reminder and reinforcement of the foregoing, all judges of the first and second level courts are **strongly encouraged to prioritize and expedite** the taking of the testimonies of police officers who are witnesses in cases pending before the courts by, among others:

- (a) strictly observing the following quoted provision on One-Day Examination of Witness Rule under A.M. No. 03-1-09-SC (Rule on Guidelines to be Observed by the Trial Court Judges and Clerks of Court in the Conduct of Pre-Trial and Use of Deposition-Discovery Measures):
 - i. xxx. The One-Day Examination of Witness Rule, that is, a witness has to be examined in one (1) day only, shall be strictly adhered to subject to the court's discretion during trial whether or not to extend the direct and/or cross-examination for justifiable reasons.

Re: Prioritizing and Expediting the Taking of Testimonies of Police-Witnesses in Cases Pending Before the Courts

- (b) conducting videoconferencing hearings in taking the testimonies of police-witnesses who have been assigned to other stations, or other reasons/circumstances which may impede or delay the physical appearance of police-witnesses in court.

For guidance and strict observance.

11 November 2022



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator