



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 210-2023

TO: ALL JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FOREIGN APOSTILLES

All Judges of the First and Second Level Courts are hereby **REMINDED** of the Philippines' obligation to acknowledge foreign Apostilles under the Apostille Convention¹, either electronically issued or printed,² subject to the prevailing jurisprudence and/or applicable Court issuances related thereto.

For the lower court's guidance, the following link provides the complete list of information of the Competent Authorities of the Apostille Convention and the links to their respective e-Registers (online verification for Apostilles, if available) and/or websites:

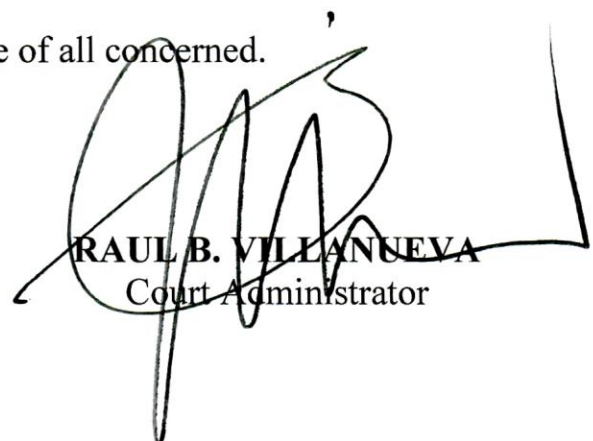
Competent Authorities of the Apostille Convention

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41>

In cases where the issuing Competent Authority does not have an e-Register, verification requests may be sent directly to their respective email addresses.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

05 June 2023


RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator


atp/qsc/nda

¹ The Philippines became a party to the Apostille Convention on May 14, 2019.

² Article 3 (1) Apostille Convention or Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.

**Exempted to this rule are the documents coming from Austria, Finland, Germany, and Greece, considering that these countries, although Member Parties to the Apostille Convention, have objected to the Philippines' accession. For these documents, the process of legalization is still a requirement. Another exemption to this rule is when the received Apostille and/or attachments are doubtful or have serious defects.