



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 225-2023-A

TO : ALL FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS
IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL
REGION

SUBJECT : AMENDMENT TO OCA CIRCULAR NO. 225-
2023 (RE: SUSPENSION/CANCELLATION OF
HEARINGS OF CRIMINAL CASES ON 10 TO
14 JULY 2023)

In a letter dated 05 June 2023, Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Secretary, Department of Justice (DOJ), disclosed that the DOJ will hold its Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Convention for the prosecutors of the National Capital Region (NCR) and DOJ attorneys on 10-14 July 2023 at the Manila Hotel, Manila. On account thereof, and since the activity would coincide with the work days of NCR courts, Sec. Remulla requested that the hearings of criminal cases in all NCR courts be suspended or cancelled on said period.

Accordingly, all concerned first and second level courts are DIRECTED to suspend or cancel the aforesaid hearings of criminal cases scheduled on 10-14 July 2023, if any, and have the same re-set at the nearest available dates, **except when the private prosecutor was authorized in writing by the Chief of the Prosecution Office or the Regional State Prosecutor to prosecute the case subject to the approval of the court¹, in which case, trials or hearings may proceed as set on the aforesaid dates.**

This amends OCA Circular No. 225-2023 dated 21 June 2023.

For strict compliance.

22 June 2023


RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator

MMA/OCA/Circ225-2023Amendment

¹ "Section 5. *Who must prosecute criminal action.* - All criminal actions either commenced by a complaint or information shall be prosecuted under the direction and control of the prosecutor. **In case of heavy work schedule of the public prosecutor or in the event of lack of public prosecutors, the private prosecutor may be authorized in writing by the Chief of the Prosecution Office or the Regional State Prosecutor to prosecute the case subject to the approval of the court.** Once so authorized to prosecute the criminal action, the private prosecutor shall continue to prosecute the case up to end of the trial even in the absence of a public prosecutor, unless the authority is revoked or otherwise withdrawn. (*As amended by A.M. No. 02-2-07-SC effective May 1, 2002.*) (emphasis ours)