



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 141-2023

**Re: DESIGNATION OF ELECTION COURTS TO HEAR, TRY, AND DECIDE ELECTION CONTESTS INVOLVING ELECTIVE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS**

**WHEREAS**, under Section 3 (j), Rule 1 and under Section 1, Rule 2 of **The 2023 Amended Rules of Procedure in Election Contests Before the Courts Involving Elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials** (Resolution dated 29 August 2023 in A.M. No. 07-4-15-SC), first level courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over all election contests involving elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 11, Rule 2 of The 2023 Amended Rules, the Supreme Court shall designate the Election Courts which shall take cognizance of election protests and petitions for *quo warranto*;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 13, Rule 14 of The 2023 Amended Rules, the Election Courts shall give preference to election contests over all other cases, except petitions for *habeas corpus* and for the writs of *amparo* and *habeas data*;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the Rules of Procedure in Election Contests Before the Courts Involving Elective Municipal and *Barangay* Officials (Resolution dated 24 April 2007 in A.M. No. 07-4-15-SC), Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 54-2018 dated 16 May 2018 was issued designating the first level courts as Election Courts to hear, try, and decide election contests involving elective *barangay* officials;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the issuance of The 2023 Amended Rules and the organization of a number of newly-created first level courts, there is a need to revise and update A.O. No. 54-2018;

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that election cases will be filed in the courts in view of the forthcoming 30 October 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, and the other elections thereafter;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in the interest of a speedy and efficient administration of justice and pursuant to Section 11, Rule 2 of **The 2023 Amended Rules of Procedure in Election Contests Before the Courts**

**Involving Elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials**, the following branches of the first level courts are designated to exclusively and speedily hear, try, and decide election protests and petitions for *quo warranto* involving elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials within their respective territorial jurisdictions during the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, until otherwise revoked by the Court:

<u>STATION</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
<b><u>METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT</u></b>	
<b>CALOOCAN CITY</b>	Branch 50 Branch 83
<b>LAS PIÑAS CITY</b>	Branch 79 Branch 123
<b>MAKATI CITY</b>	Branch 61 Branch 63 Branch 128
<b>MALABON CITY</b>	Branch 120
<b>MANDALUYONG CITY</b>	Branch 59 Branch 98
<b>MANILA</b>	Branch 2 Branch 10 Branch 14 Branch 15 Branch 17 Branch 18 Branch 23 Branch 27
<b>MARIKINA CITY</b>	Branch 76 Branch 93
<b>MUNTINLUPA CITY</b>	Branch 80 Branch 114
<b>NAVOTAS CITY</b>	Branch 54
<b>PARAÑAQUE CITY</b>	Branch 88 Branch 91
<b>PASAY CITY</b>	Branch 44 Branch 47

*Re: Designation of Election Courts to Hear, Try and Decide Election Contests Involving  
Elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials*

<b>PASIG CITY</b>	Branch 68 Branch 69
<b>QUEZON CITY</b>	Branch 33 Branch 34 Branch 35 Branch 39 Branch 42
<b>TAGUIG CITY</b>	Branch 115
<b>VALENZUELA CITY</b>	Branch 82 Branch 108

**MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES**

**FIRST JUDICIAL REGION**

<b>BAGUIO CITY, BENGUET</b>	Branch 2 Branch 3
<b>DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN</b>	Branch 1

**SECOND JUDICIAL REGION**

<b>TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN</b>	Branch 2
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**THIRD JUDICIAL REGION**

<b>SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, BULACAN</b>	Branch 3
<b>CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA</b>	Branch 3
<b>ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA</b>	Branch 1
<b>CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA</b>	Branch 3
<b>OLONGAPO CITY, ZAMBALES</b>	Branch 4 Branch 5

**FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION**

<b>LIPA CITY, BATANGAS</b>	Branch 3
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*Re: Designation of Election Courts to Hear, Try and Decide Election Contests Involving Elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials*

<b>BACOR CITY, CAVITE</b>	Branch 2
<b>DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE</b>	Branch 3
<b>CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA</b>	Branch 1
<b>SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA</b>	Branch 3
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN</b>	Branch 1
<b>ANTIPOLO CITY, RIZAL</b>	Branch 1 Branch 5
<b><u>FIFTH JUDICIAL REGION</u></b>	
<b>LEGASPI CITY, ALBAY</b>	Branch 3
<b>NAGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR</b>	Branch 2
<b><u>SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION</u></b>	
<b>ROXAS CITY, CAPIZ</b>	Branch 3
<b>ILOILO CITY, ILOILO</b>	Branch 1 Branch 6 Branch 8
<b>BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL</b>	Branch 1 Branch 6
<b><u>SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION</u></b>	
<b>TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL</b>	Branch 1
<b>CEBU CITY, CEBU</b>	Branch 1 Branch 2 Branch 4
<b>MANDAUE CITY, CEBU</b>	Branch 2
<b>LAPU-LAPU CITY, CEBU</b>	Branch 3
<b><u>NINTH JUDICIAL REGION</u></b>	
<b>ZAMBOANGA CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR</b>	Branch 1

**TENTH JUDICIAL REGION**

**BUTUAN CITY,** Branch 1  
**AGUSAN DEL NORTE**

**OZAMIS CITY,** Branch 1  
**MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL**

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY** Branch 1  
**MISAMIS ORIENTAL** Branch 5

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION**

**DAVAO CITY,** Branch 2  
**DAVAO DEL SUR** Branch 5

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY,** Branch 3  
**SOUTH COTABATO**

**TWELFTH JUDICIAL REGION**

**ILIGAN CITY,** Branch 2  
**LANAO DEL NORTE** Branch 3

**MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT**

**SECOND JUDICIAL REGION**

**LAL-LO, CAGAYAN** Branch 3

For purposes of this Administrative Order, the cases referred herein shall be limited to election protests and petitions for *quo warranto* involving elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials. All other election-related cases shall be raffled among the regular courts in the station.

In stations where there is only one (1) branch designated as a Election Court, the election contest shall be automatically assigned to the said branch. If there are two (2) or more branches designated as Election Courts in a station, the election contest/s shall be raffled among the designated branches. All single-sala first level courts are considered Election Courts for the above purpose and for this reason shall give priority to these cases in their trial calendars. In multiple-sala stations where there are only two (2) branches or there are no Election Courts designated for the purpose, the cases shall be raffled among the regular courts therein.

The Election Courts herein designated, all single-sala courts, and the branches where the election contests are raffled in case of multiple-sala stations where there are only two (2) branches or there are no designated election

**courts, shall try and decide the election contests in accordance with **The 2023 Amended Rules of Procedure in Election Contests Before the Courts Involving Elective Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Officials.****

The Election Courts herein designated shall continue to be included in the raffle of cases, criminal and civil, provided that the Executive Judges of the courts concerned shall exclude the designated Election Courts from such raffle whenever in their judgment the caseload of these courts will prevent them from conducting the continuous trial of the election contests.

The branches thus designated as Election Courts shall continue to perform the functions as such within the purview of this Administrative Order even after the retirement, promotion, transfer or detail of the judges appointed/designated thereat. Election contests filed after the Election Courts became vacant due to retirement, promotion, transfer or detail of the presiding/acting judges shall still be raffled/assigned to the said Election Courts. The judge designated to preside over the vacant Election Court shall take cognizance of the cases unless another judge is designated by the Supreme Court.

In the event of disqualification and voluntary inhibition of the judge of the designated Election Court, the following guidelines shall be observed:

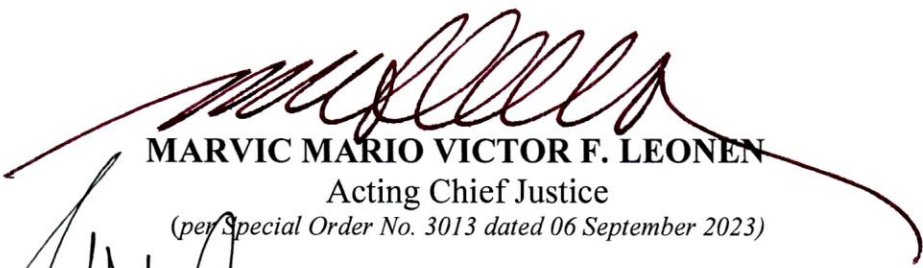
- (1) Where there is only one (1) Election Court in the station, the pairing system for multiple-sala stations subject of Circular No. 7 dated September 23, 1974, as amended, shall apply;
- (2) Where there are two (2) or more Election Courts in the station, the Executive Judge shall immediately assign the case by raffle to the other or another Election Court. In case of disqualification/inhibition of all the judges of the Election Courts, the case shall be forwarded to the pairing judge of the Election Court which originally handled the case. If the pairing judge is also disqualified or inhibits himself/herself, the case shall be raffled to the other regular courts. At the next raffle, an additional case shall be assigned to the disqualified or inhibiting judge/s to replace the case so removed from his/her/their court;
- (3) In case of disqualification/inhibition of the judge in a single branch first level court, the order of inhibition shall be referred to the Executive Judge who shall, by raffle, designate another judge within his/her area of administrative supervision to hear and decide the case in the court of origin;
- (4) In case all the first level court judges within the area of administrative supervision of the Executive Judge are disqualified or inhibited themselves, he/she shall forward the Order of Inhibition to the Executive Judge of the nearest station, who shall designate a first level court judge within his/her administrative area of

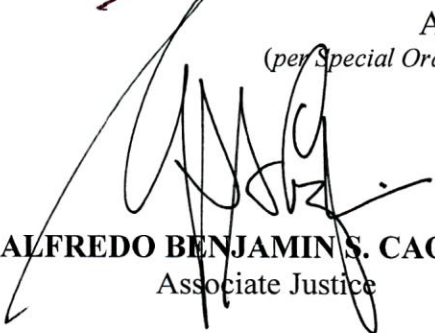
supervision to hear and decide the inhibited case, taking into consideration the proximity of the judge's station to the original inhibiting court. The first level court judge so designated shall hear and decide the case in the court of origin<sup>1</sup>; and


- (5) When all the first level court judges under the area of supervision of the Executive Judge of the nearest station are likewise disqualified or inhibited themselves, the Executive Judge of the last inhibiting first level court judge shall forward the Order of Inhibition to the Court, through the Office of the Court Administrator, for the designation of a judge who shall take cognizance of the case<sup>2</sup>.

This Administrative Order supersedes Administrative Order No. 54-2018 dated 16 May 2018 and shall take effect immediately.

03 October 2023

  
**MARVIC MARIO VICTOR F. LEONEN**  
Acting Chief Justice  
(per Special Order No. 3013 dated 06 September 2023)

  
**ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA**  
Associate Justice

  
**RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO**  
Associate Justice  
(per Special Order No. 3014 dated 06 September 2023)

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All Judges concerned  
All Clerks of Courts concerned

<sup>1</sup> OCA Circular No. 100-2018 dated 21 May 2018 (Re: Amendment to Section 8[b], Chapter V, A.M. No. 03-8-02-SC)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*