



Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
Department of Justice
Manila

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. **008-B**

**TO : THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY APPEALS MANAGEMENT OFFICE
ALL UNDERSECRETARIES
ALL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : EXPANDED GUIDELINES FOR THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION
SERVICE AND FOR THE FILING OF PETITIONS FOR REVIEW
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)**

DATE : 18 March 2020

In the exigency of the service, and pursuant to relevant resolutions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the proclamation by the President of a State of National Calamity on 16 March 2020, the following Expanded Guidelines for the National Prosecution Service and for the filing of Petitions for Review with the DOJ are hereby issued in conjunction with Department Circular (DC) No. 008 and 008-A:

I. APPLICABILITY

These Expanded Guidelines shall be applicable in all prosecution service in Regions I to V and in other jurisdictions where the province, city, and/or municipality have imposed an enhanced community quarantine pursuant to Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease Resolution No. 13 dated 16 March 2020 and subsequent issuances.

II. INQUESTS AND PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

During the period of the enhanced community quarantine in the NCR and Regions I-V, the conduct of all inquest proceedings shall continue and shall proceed in accordance with the Rules of Court and existing rules and regulations of the DOJ, including guidelines on the designation of inquest prosecutors on duty and the necessary support staff therefor.

All preliminary investigation hearings, case conferences, and the like during the period of the enhanced community quarantine are deemed cancelled and shall be rescheduled after the lifting of the enhanced community quarantine.

Accordingly, the Prosecutor General, Regional Prosecutors, Provincial Prosecutors, City Prosecutors, and prosecutors authorized and required to approve resolutions/orders on inquest proceedings and act on other urgent

papers/matters, together with the necessary skeletal workforce, shall be on stand-by at any given day during this period.

III. COURT HEARINGS

Subject to the provisions of Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 31-2020 dated 16 March 2020 and related orders that the Supreme Court may subsequently issue on suspension of court hearings, trial prosecutors shall continue to attend court hearings and prosecute pending cases.

IV. REGLEMENTARY PERIOD FOR FILING OF PETITIONS FOR REVIEW, MOTIONS AND RENDITION OF RESOLUTIONS

The reglementary period for the filing of Petitions for Review before the Office of the Secretary or the Office of the Regional Prosecutor, responsive pleadings thereto, affidavits, motions, position papers, and/or other relevant papers is deemed interrupted during the period of the enhanced community quarantine and shall begin to run again after the enhanced community quarantine is lifted in the regions or in the province, city, and/or municipality concerned.

It is likewise understood that the reglementary period for the rendition of decisions, resolutions, and/or other orders is deemed interrupted for the same period and shall begin to run again after the enhanced community quarantine has ended.

The foregoing notwithstanding, all Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and state/field prosecutors, and all concerned or affected by the enhanced community quarantine regulations are hereby directed to work from home and reduce their pre-existing work backlog during the said period.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.


MENARDO I. GUEVARRA
Secretary

Department of Justice

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