



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 22-2021

TO: ALL CONCERNED JUSTICES, JUDGES AND CONCERNED COURT PERSONNEL, AND COURT USERS

RE: PHYSICAL CLOSURE OF COURTS IN ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE AND MODIFIED ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE AREAS

Considering that the National Capital Region, and the provinces of Abra, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quirino and Rizal, and Santiago City are under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) until 30 April 2021, the physical closure of courts in the said areas is likewise extended to 30 April 2021.

The courts in other areas under localized Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and MECQ shall likewise be physically closed for the duration of such ECQ or MECQ.

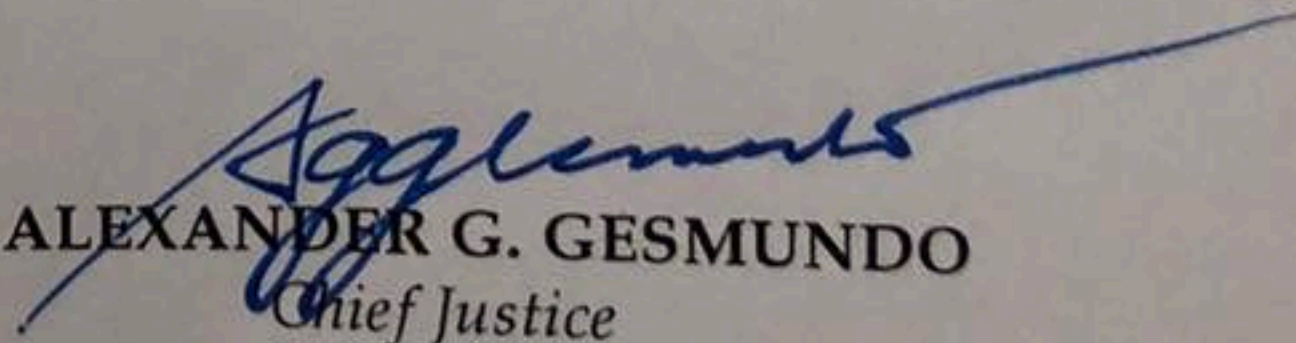
All the physically closed courts in areas under ECQ and MECQ may be reached through the listed Judiciary hotlines and email addresses as posted in the Supreme Court website.

The courts in these areas shall continue to operate through videoconferencing as far as practicable. Judges may conduct fully remote videoconferencing hearings on pending cases and other matters, whether urgent or not, regardless of their physical location and without prior permission from the Office of the Court Administrator.

The time for filing and service of pleadings and motions during this period is **SUSPENDED** and shall resume seven (7) calendar days counted from the first day of physical reopening of the relevant court.

The essential judicial offices shall maintain the necessary skeleton staff to attend to all **URGENT** matters.

14 April 2021


ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO
Chief Justice