



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2022 BAR CHAIR

The Office of the 2022 Bar Chair has been informally receiving word on the call on social media for the postponement of the 2022 Bar Examinations due to the damage and flooding brought on by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (STS Paeng). The Office of the 2022 Bar Chair further takes note of Proclamation No. 84, s. 2022 dated November 2, 2022, which placed Regions IV-A (CALABARZON), V (Bicol Region), VI (Western Visayas) and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) under a state of calamity. Truly, the Court is aware that the entire country continues to reel with countless calls for help and donations ringing out across the nation.

Pursuant to the initial assessment of the extent of damage and possible effects of STS Paeng on the 2022 Bar Examinations, the Office of the 2022 Bar Chair immediately undertook the surveying of all the Local Testing Centers (LTCs) and all the Local Government Units (LGUs) covering said LTCs. Importantly, all the LGUs and all the LTCs categorically indicated that they remain prepared and ready to participate in the 2022 Bar Examinations as scheduled.

For purposes of ensuring the fairness of each decision that may be made with respect to the Bar Examinations, the Court, in balancing the needs of all the examinees, has considered both those who may have been adversely affected by STS Paeng and are informally requesting its postponement, as well as those who are keen on taking it as scheduled, lest their lives be put on hold for longer. The Court also recognizes that it must consider the hundreds of personnel and volunteers who have rearranged their professional and personal lives in order to serve and contribute to the success of the Bar Examinations this November. Still more, the Court acknowledges that any postponement of the upcoming Bar Examinations will have ripple effects on, among others, the annual Bar Examinations, the next succeeding schedule of which is in September 2023.

Taking all of these under consideration, it is the examined position of the Court that the 2022 Bar Examinations on November 9, 13, 16 and 20, 2022 will push through as scheduled.

Far from impervious to the needs and struggles of the examinees who are struggling in the aftermath of STS Paeng, and as the Court fully understands that this may not restore to the affected examinees the true cost of their preparations for the Bar Examinations, it deems it right that examinees who may be unable to take the 2022 Bar Examinations as scheduled for the foregoing reason may apply for a refund of their bar fees with the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC) through their BAR Plus registered email addresses. At the option of the examinee, the bar fees paid may also be applied to the forthcoming Bar Examinations scheduled in September 2023.

The official channel of the 2022 Bar Examinations at <https://bit.ly/2022BarExamHelpDesk> remains open to receive queries regarding the foregoing requests. For any other concerns, the examinees are also urged to reach out through the OBC Helpdesk at (02) 8552-96-90 / (02) 8552-96-42.

The Court recognizes the great odds that lie ahead, made greater for examinees by the passing of the recent storms. The recent tragedies suffered by the nation also betray a certain savagery to this profession – in that we must keep on in the face of devastation, and strive to endure against unprecedented loss. And yet, these odds call truer still the fact that indeed, nothing is lost while courage remains.

May courage and clarity be upon us all.

November 3, 2022.