



Republic of the Philippines

***Sandiganbayan***

Quezon City

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 020-2022**

### **LIFTING THE REQUIREMENT FOR ANTIGEN TESTING FOR ALL FULLY VACCINATED COURT USERS OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN**

**WHEREAS**, during its special meeting on October 22, 2021, a majority of the Sandiganbayan *en banc* approved and confirmed the mandatory requirement for the submission of antigen test results for all lawyers, parties and witnesses who are allowed to participate in- court;

**WHEREAS**, under Sandiganbayan Administrative Order No. 17-2022, all hearings in the Sandiganbayan shall be fully in-court and hearings via videoconferencing may only be conducted in exceptional cases;

**WHEREAS**, there have been letters received from the Office of the Special Prosecutor and defense requesting for reconsideration of the requirement of antigen testing;

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing National Covid-19 Immunization Program which has been opened to the general public has resulted in an ever-increasing number of fully-vaccinated and boosted individuals in the Country;

**WHEREAS**, as of February 24, 2022, a majority of the Justices of the Sandiganbayan *en banc* have voted to lift the requirement of the submission of Antigen Test results for all lawyers, parties, witnesses and court users provided that they can present copies of their duly issued vaccination and/or booster cards upon entry into the Sandiganbayan;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the following entry policy shall be observed for all court users in the Sandiganbayan effective March 1, 2022:

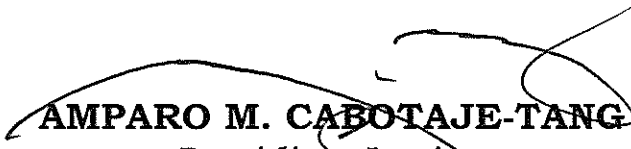
1. All fully vaccinated lawyers, parties, witnesses and court users shall be allowed entry into the Sandiganbayan provided that they are able to show physical or electronic copies of

their duly issued vaccination and/or booster cards upon entry into the Sandiganbayan;

2. The Security personnel of the Sandiganbayan are directed to confirm the identity of the persons indicated in the said vaccination/booster cards; and
3. All lawyers, parties, witnesses and court users who are not fully vaccinated<sup>1</sup> or are unable to adequately present copies of their vaccination cards shall be required to present a laboratory confirmed or professionally conducted **negative Antigen or RT-PCR test result** taken within a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours from entry into the Sandiganbayan;

Issued this 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022.

Quezon City.

  
**AMPARO M. CABOTAJE-TANG**  
*Presiding Justice*

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<sup>1</sup> **Fully vaccinated** - means two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose Vaccine (AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, Sinovac or Sputnik) or two weeks after the first dose in a single dose Vaccine (Janssen and Sputnik).