



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Sandiganbayan

Quezon City

MEMORANDUM

TO: **ATTY. MA. TERESA S. PABULAYAN**, *Executive Clerk of Court IV*

ALL DIVISION CLERKS OF COURT

MR. ALBERT A. DELA CRUZ, *Chief Judicial Staff Officer*
Security And Sheriff Services Division

Re: **REITERATION OF REQUIREMENT OF ANTIGEN TESTING OF ALL LAWYERS, PARTIES AND WITNESSES WHO PARTICIPATE IN-COURT**

Date: February 14, 2022

Item 5 of Sandiganbayan Administrative Order No. 017-2022 dated February 14, 2022 Re *WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN THE SANDIGANBAYAN BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2022 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE* which was issued upon consultation with and approval of the Honorable Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, reads:

5. All hearings in the Sandiganbayan shall be fully in-court, albeit only parties, their counsels and witnesses shall be allowed inside the court room. Hearings *via* video conferencing may be conducted only in exceptional cases, upon motion of either or both parties, or upon orders of the court, which shall schedule the said videoconferencing hearings;

In this connection, the requirement of Antigen Testing of lawyers, parties, and witnesses, which was approved and confirmed by the Sandiganbayan *en banc* during its special *en banc meeting* last October 22, 2021, is hereby reiterated. The Security and Sheriff Services Division is directed to continue to:

1. require the presentation of a negative antigen or RT-PCR test result for all such persons who shall be attending in-court. The antigen or RT-PCR test should have been taken within Forty-Eight Hours (48) prior to their entry into the Sandiganbayan;
2. For lawyers, parties, and witnesses who are present in multiple settings or in different cases in a given week, it is sufficient that said person has secured one (1) negative antigen or RT-PCR test result and presented the same at his earliest entry in the Sandiganbayan for that week;
3. All lawyers, parties and witnesses who are unable to present a negative antigen or RT-PCR test result shall be barred entry and shall be advised to participate through videoconferencing; and,
4. An accused with a pending warrant of arrest or an accused who has been arrested and who wishes to post bail before the Court who fails to present a negative antigen or RT-PCR test result taken within Forty-Eight Hours (48) prior to his/her entry into the Sandiganbayan shall undergo antigen testing at the expense of the Sandiganbayan.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE.


AMPARO M. CABOTAJE-TANG
Presiding Justice

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, **ATTY. MA. TERESA S. PABULAYAN**, Executive Clerk of Court IV,
Secretariat to the Court *En Banc* of the Sandiganbayan,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That at the meeting of the Court *En Banc* held via videoconference, on October 22, 2021, wherein a quorum of the Justices was present, the following resolution was adopted and duly recorded in the Minutes of that meeting, as follows:

(EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COURT *EN BANC* HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2021)

“The Justices, after some discussion, approved and confirmed, through voting, the mandatory requirement of submission of the result of antigen testing for all lawyers, parties, and witnesses who are allowed to participate in court under A.C. No. 83-2021, subject to an amendment introduced by Justice Sarah Jane T. Fernandez that an accused with a pending warrant of arrest who has been arrested or who voluntarily surrendered and wishes to post bail before the Court shall be required to undergo antigen testing at the expense of the Court .”

Quezon City, Philippines, October 22, 2021.

(original signed)

Atty. MA. TERESA S. PABULAYAN
Executive Clerk of Court IV