

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court en banc issued a Resolution dated **DECEMBER 10, 2019**, which reads as follows:*

“**A.M. No. 10-11-5-SC** (Re: Petition for Radio and Television Coverage of the Multiple Murder Cases against Maguindanao Governor Zaldy Ampatuan, et al.); **A.M. No. 10-11-6-SC** (Re: Petition for the Constitution of the Present Court Handling the Trial of the Massacre of Fifty-Seven [57] Persons, Including Thirty-Two [32] Journalists, in Ampatuan, Maguindanao into a Special Court Handling This Case Alone for the Purpose of Achieving Genuine Speedy Trial and for the Setting Up of Videocam and Monitor Just Outside the Court for the Journalists to Cover and for the People to Witness the ‘Trial of the Decade’ to Make It Truly Public and Impartial as Commanded by the Constitution); and **A.M. No. 10-11-7-SC** (Re: Letter of President Benigno S. Aquino III for the ‘Live Media Coverage of the Maguindanao Massacre Trial’).-

Acting on the request for the live coverage and broadcast in various platforms of the promulgation of the Decision in Criminal Case Nos. Q-09-162148-72, Q-09162216-31, Q-10-162652-66, Q-10-163766 and GL-Q-12-178638 (People of the Philippines vs. Datu Andal ‘Unsay’ Ampatuan, Jr., et al.), pending before Branch 221, Regional Trial Court, Quezon City, scheduled on December 19, 2019 at the Metro Manila District Jail Annex 2, BJMP, Camp Bagong Diwa, made by the following, namely:

(i) CNN Philippines, through Edward Gabud, Senior Desk Editor;

(ii) Rappler, through Lian Nami Aloen P. Buan, Multimedia Reporter;

(iii) National Press Club of the Philippines, through Rolando Gonzalo, President;

(iv) National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, through Elizabeth C. Panelo, Secretary-General; Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, through Melinda Quintos de Jesus, Executive Director; and Philippine Center for

Investigative Journalism, through Malou C. Mangahas,
Executive Director;

(v) ABS-CBN, through Regina E. Reyes, Head,
Integrated News; and

(vi) Presidential Communications Operations Office,
Radio Television Malacañang, Philippine News Agency, PTV-
4, through Undersecretary Jose Joel M. Sy Egco, Executive
Director, Presidential Task Force on Media Security,

the Court Resolved, upon the recommendation of Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez, to **GRANT** the request for the live coverage and broadcast in various media platforms of the promulgation of the Decision in the aforesaid criminal cases, subject to the following guidelines:

(a) There shall only be two (2) cameras inside the courtroom, both manned by PTV personnel subject to the control and supervision of the Public Information Office (PIO) of this Court. One camera shall be directed at the judge and whoever will read the Decision, or the pertinent parts thereof, on a wide shot, while the other shall be directed at the parties, their counsels, and the public, also on a wide shot. In no case shall the two (2) cameras pan the surroundings or zoom in on any individual. The said two (2) cameras shall feed into the cables of the different media networks to enable the live coverage and broadcast in various media platforms.

(b) Only accredited media representatives shall be allowed inside the courtroom, subject to the space limitation. They shall, however, be prohibited from bringing inside their cellphones, cameras, audio-video recorders, or any recording gadget. It shall likewise be prohibited to take pictures or record the proceedings from inside the courtroom.

(c) No interviews shall be allowed inside the courtroom, whether before, during or after the promulgation.



The Court further Resolved to

(a) **DIRECT** the Court Administrator and the Chief of the PIO to **ENSURE** that (i) the subject promulgation shall be orderly and (ii) the live media coverage and broadcast shall comply with the above Guidelines; and

(b) **DIRECT** the Chief of the PIO to **IMMEDIATELY UPLOAD** the subject Decision in the website of the Court." Gesmundo, J., on official business.

Carandang, J., on leave. Zalameda, J., on official leave.
(adv45)

Very truly yours,


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A.M. No. 10-11-5-SC, A.M. No. 10-11-6-SC and
A.M. No. 10-11-7-SC
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**GUIDELINES ON THE LIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE
PROMULGATION OF PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES VS.
DATU ANDAL “UNSAY” AMPATUAN, JR., ET AL.
(Q-09-162148-73, Q-09-162216-31, Q-10-162652-66,
Q-10-163766, GL-Q-12-178638)**

INTRODUCTION

On 10 December 2019, the Supreme Court *En Banc* approved the request for the live coverage and broadcast of the promulgation of the consolidated cases of *People v. Ampatuan, et al.*, pending before Br. 221, RTC, Quezon City. This will be held on 19 December 2019, 9:00 in the morning, at the Metro Manila District Jail Annex 2, BJMP, Camp Bagong Diwa (the “Promulgation”).

The *En Banc* likewise directed the Court Administrator and the Chief of the Supreme Court Public Information Office (PIO) to ensure that the Promulgation will be orderly and that the live media coverage and broadcast will comply with the following Guidelines.

In view thereof, the following Guidelines are hereby issued:

SECTION 1. POOLED COVERAGE OF THE MEDIA

- 1.1. In view of the limited space and security concerns, the live media coverage and broadcast of the Promulgation shall be done through a pooled coverage.
- 1.2. The PIO will be responsible for coordination of the pooled coverage.
- 1.3. The PIO shall seasonably provide advisories to media entities through the presidents of the Justice and Court Reporters Association (JUCRA) and the Justice Reporters Organization (JUROR), informing them of notices and instructions regarding the pooled coverage
- 1.4. Aside from the PIO cameras that shall document the Promulgation, there shall only be one other network allowed to cover the proceedings

from inside the courtroom. For this purpose, that network shall be the government network, People's Television Network (PTV).

1.5 PTV shall allow all other media networks to connect to their live video and audio feed of the promulgation. Broadcast networks using the pooled video shall expressly acknowledge that it is a pooled video from the PIO and PTV and shall prominently acknowledge this in their video broadcast.

1.6. The PIO shall coordinate with the appropriate government agencies to carry out the pooled coverage of the Promulgation.

1.7. No expert commentaries shall be allowed during the live coverage of the Promulgation.

1.8. PTV shall air the Promulgation without any interruption.

1.9. PTV shall immediately give copies of the video footage of the Promulgation to the Supreme Court through the PIO.

SECTION 2. DESIGNATED AREAS FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA

2.1. A media working area shall be provided outside the courtroom with a television monitor showing the proceedings live through the PTV cameras.

2.2. Only those members of the media accredited by the PIO to cover the Promulgation shall be allowed inside the Metro Manila District Jail Annex 2, Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig ("MMDJ Annex 2") and the media working area.

2.3. The accredited members of the media shall be identified through their prominent media identification cards and the official identification that the PIO will provide for this purpose.

2.4. The accredited members of the media are directed and required to stay at their designated media working area during the Promulgation. Loitering in other areas is prohibited.

2.5. No interviews shall be allowed inside the courtroom and the MMDJ Annex 2 at any time before, during, or after the Promulgation.

2.6. The PIO shall designate an area where interviews may be conducted after the Promulgation, outside the MMDJ Annex 2.

SECTION 3. PHOTO AND VIDEO COVERAGE

3.1. No photographers and videographers, except the PIO's official photographer and videographer, and the two (2) cameramen of PTV, shall be allowed inside the courtroom.

3.2. The media will be provided with the PIO photographs upon request.

3.3. The PIO shall allow only two (2) video cameras inside the courtroom to be provided and manned by the personnel of PTV. The PIO shall have direct control and supervision over these two (2) video cameras.

3.4. The first camera of PTV shall be directed at the judge and whoever will read the decision, or the pertinent parts thereof, on a wide angle shot, while the second camera of PTV shall be directed at the lawyers, counsels, and the parties, also on a wide angle shot.

3.5. In no case will the two (2) cameras of PTV pan the surroundings or zoom in on any individual inside the courtroom and the MMDJ Annex 2.

3.6. PTV shall prominently display the logos of the Supreme Court and that of the PIO in its broadcast.

SECTION 4. ACCREDITED MEDIA

4.1. The exclusive list of accredited media members who will be allowed to cover the Promulgation inside MMDJ Annex 2 shall be prepared and issued only by the PIO.

4.2. All accredited members of the media shall be required to register by or before 8:00 in the morning on 19 December 2019 at MMDJ Annex 2. No accredited member of the media will be allowed entry after 8:00 in the morning.

4.3. Registration of the accredited members of the media at the MMDJ Annex 2 shall be manned by the PIO.

4.4. For the guidance of the accredited members of the media, you are advised to register with the NCRPO beforehand and be duly informed of their respective guidelines on the event.

SECTION 5. ALL OTHER PROVISIONS

5.1. The PIO will immediately upload the decision of the trial court in *People v. Ampatuan, et al.* in the website of the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

5.2. No cellphones, cameras, audio-video recorders, or any other electronic device shall be allowed inside the courtroom.

5.3. Any violation of the provisions of these guidelines by the members of the accredited media shall cause their immediate removal from the MMDJ Annex 2.

13 December 2019


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator


BRIAN KEITH F. HOSAKA
Assistant Court Administrator and Chief, Public Information Office

Conforme: _____
Print Name and Signature