



Supreme Court of the Philippines
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Videoconferencing hearings to continue in GCQ areas

Citing the initial success of videoconferencing hearings in authorized courts nationwide where more than 7,000 videoconferencing hearings were done in a month, and the more than 22,000 PDLs were released during the lockdown, Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez said: "Videoconferencing hearings will continue during GCQ. This is authorized by both AC 40-2020 and AC 41-2020 which were issued by Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta. Hence, for example if a party wishes his/her case to be heard via videoconferencing, the proper motion just needs to be filed, and the court, using its sound discretion, can either grant or deny the motion. This remedy is available in both civil and criminal cases."

"There have already been three convictions promulgated online by our trial courts. There was a case for qualified human trafficking in Angeles City, and for large scale trafficking for prostitution, and rape both in Cebu City. In all three, the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment and reclusion perpetua," Marquez added.