



Republic of the Philippines  
NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION

LEGAL AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

ADVISORY

**TO : ALL PARTIES WITH PENDING HEARINGS WITH THE NPC**

**SUBJECT : MODIFIED IN-PERSON/ FACE-TO-FACE HEARING OF CASES**

**DATE : 18 DECEMBER 2020**

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**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Public Advisory dated 12 March 2020, the National Privacy Commission suspended all setting for discovery conferences, summary hearings, and mediation proceedings before the Commission as a precautionary measure against the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, on 03 August 2020, the Commission, through NPC Advisory No. 2020-02, prescribed Guidelines on the Use of Videoconferencing Technology for the Remote Appearance and Testimony of Parties Before the National Privacy Commission to provide the parties the option to attend the proceedings remotely, in the relative safety of their chosen premises, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, despite of the current situation, the need to deliver public service through the conduct of case hearings continue and shall be in accordance with minimum public health standards and capacity limitations set by the IATF;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 26 October 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), reclassified quarantine restrictions and placed Metro Manila and neighboring provinces under general Community Quarantine (GCQ), while the rest of the country under Modified GCQ;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 01 December 2020, NPC issued NPC-Health and Safety Committee (NPC-HSC) Resolution No. 001-2020, which approved the resumption of the “in person or face-to-face” hearings, in modified format, subject to the health and safety measures stipulated therein, and stating that videoconferencing and remote appearance shall still be an option for parties;

**WHEREFORE**, the suspension of all settings for hearing of cases before the Commission is lifted, and a Modified In-Person/ Face-to-Face Hearing, observing proper health and safety protocols, shall be implemented.

**ATTY. MARIA THERESITA E. PATULA**  
*Director IV, Legal and Enforcement Office*

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<sup>1</sup> Par. A of General Provisions of NPC Advisory No. 2020-02

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation, DOH Administrative Order No. 0015-20, [April 27, 2020]

<sup>3</sup> AITF Resolution No. 81, [October 26, 2020]