



Republika ng Pilipinas ◀  
**KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN**  
*Department of Justice*  
Manila

ABSC-DC-13A16\_\_\_\_\_

January 13, 2016

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 003**

**TO : ALL PROSECUTORS**

**SUBJECT : AUTOMATIC REVIEW OF DISMISSED CASES INVOLVING  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165 (COMPREHENSIVE  
DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002)**

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In the interest of public service and pursuant to existing laws, Department Circular No. 022 dated 12 February 2013 and Department Circular No. 50 dated 18 December 2015, which provide for the guidelines on the release of respondents and/or accused pending automatic review of dismissed cases involving Republic Act No. 9165, ***are hereby revoked.*** Department Circular No. 012 dated 13 February 2012 ***is accordingly reinstated,*** the pertinent portions of which are quoted below, for reference and guidance:

In the interest of public service and pursuant to existing laws, the dismissal of all cases whether on inquest, preliminary investigation, reinvestigation or on appeal, filed for violation of Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002) and involving the maximum penalty of *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment, shall be subject to automatic review by the Secretary of Justice.

The entire records of the case shall be elevated to the Secretary of Justice within three (3) days from issuance of the resolution dismissing the complaint or appeal, as applicable, and the parties involved shall be notified accordingly.

The automatic review shall be summary in nature and shall, as far as practicable, be completed within thirty (30) days from receipt of the case records, without prejudice to the right of the respondent to be immediately released from detention pending automatic review, unless the respondent is detained for other causes.

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This Department Circular shall apply to all pending cases and to those which have been dismissed prior to the issuance hereof, if such dismissal has not yet attained finality as of the effectivity of this Circular.

This Department Circular amends or modifies all prior issuances inconsistent herewith and shall take effect immediately until revoked.

For strict compliance.



**ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA**

*Secretary*

Department of Justice

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Copy furnished:

All concerned.