

IN THE MATTER OF THE FOUR-DAY WORKWEEK FOR APRIL AND MAY 2005

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 17 -2005, April 02, 2005

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WHEREAS, in Administrative Order No. 117 issued on 29 March 2005, the President has directed departments, bureaus, agencies and offices in the Executive Branch of Government to adopt a four-day workweek for the months of April and May 2005 whereby employees except those exempted from the plan shall report for work only from Monday to Thursday each week but must render service from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., exclusive of meal periods;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Administrative Order No. 117 provides that "the Legislative and Judicial Branches of Government, Constitutional Commissions and Local Government Units (LGUs) are encouraged to adopt the four-day workweek during the months of April and May of this year";

WHEREAS, after a serious study on the matter, the Court finds as inadvisable the four-day workweek schedule under Administrative Order No. 117 in light of (a) the Judiciary's own austerity program under Administrative Circular No. 44-2004; (b) the fact that the courts have their own calendar of cases which have been set in advance for many months; (c) the probable resulting increase in the backlog of cases; (d) the regular reporting of a skeletal force on Saturdays to attend to the needs of the citizens; and (e) the large number of employees, more or less 522, who are on flexi-time schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Judiciary declines to adopt the four-day workweek schedule for the months of April and May 2005 prescribed by Administrative Order No. 117 issued by the President of the Philippines on 29 March 2005.

Issued this 2nd day of April 2005.

(Sgd.) HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.

Chief Justice

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