



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

August 17, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No: 2020 - 0323

**TO : ALL DIRECTORS OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION CHIEFS OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU, CHIEFS OF THE REGULATORY, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND OTHER CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS**

**SUBJECT: Extension of the Validity of the Certificate of Registration for Massage Therapist and Embalmers in the Philippines**

The Sanitation Code of the Philippines (PD 856), in particular Sections XXI—"Disposal of Dead Persons", and XIII—"Massage Clinics and Sauna Bath Establishments," mandated the Department of Health (DOH) to regulate the practice of massage therapist, undertakers and embalmers in the Philippines. Pursuant to Department Order No. 2018-0301, "DOH Functional Management Teams for the Implementation of the FOURmula One Plus for Health Strategic Framework," the Committee of Examiners for Undertakers and Embalmers (CEUE) and Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapists (CEMT) were assigned to Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) of the Health Regulation Team. Hence, the HFSRB was tasked to issue the initial Certificate of Registration (COR) for massage therapists and embalmers with the renewal process to be done at the Center for Health Development (CHD) through the Regulation Licensing and Enforcement Division (RLED).

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and to further curb the transmission of the infection, the CEUE and CEMT has waived the renewal process for 2020 and hereby extends the validity of those CORs due for renewal to December 31, 2021.

Likewise, in compliance to the imposed "New Normal" health protocols, the written and practical examinations for both massage therapists and embalmers are hereby suspended until further notice.

Dissemination of this information to all concerned is requested.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc.**  
Secretary of Health

