

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 20-50
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: LIFTING THE INTERRUPTION OF PERIOD TO FILE PLEADINGS AND OTHER PAPERS AS WELL AS THE SUSPENSION OF RENDITION OF JUDGMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS SET BY MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 20-23, SERIES OF 2020.

WHEREAS, on 16 March 2020, the President declared a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of six (6) months through Proclamation No. 929, Series of 2020 and imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) throughout Luzon due to COVID-19 starting 17 March 2020 until 30 April 2020;

WHEREAS, on 22 April 2020, the Office of the President issued Administrative Order No. 30, Series of 2020 directing all heads of departments, agencies, offices and instrumentalities of the government, among others, to immediately formulate and issue rules or guidelines on the interruption of reglementary periods for the commencement of actions and claims, filing of pleadings, appearances, motions, notices and all other papers, and the rendition of judgments, resolution, and orders for the duration of the community quarantine;

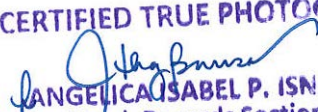
WHEREAS, on 18 May 2020, the Department of Trade and Industry issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 20-23, Series of 2020, informing litigants and parties concerned of the interruption of period to file pleadings and other papers as well as the suspension of rendition of judgments and other actions under Republic Act No. 7394, also known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines and other Trade and Industry Laws;

WHEREAS, on 27 August 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) issued Resolution No. 66 enumerating provinces and cities' community quarantine classification and thereby relaxing the community quarantine classification in most areas throughout the country until 30 September 2020;

WHEREAS, as this Department is committed to address legal concerns and resolve issues that greatly affect consumers and business establishments, in the most expedient way as possible, while considering as its priority the health of the parties, this memorandum circular is hereby released.

NOW THEREFORE, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued for the information and guidance of those concerned.

SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 20-23, Series of 2020. MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 20-23, Series of 2020, is hereby revoked for the Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (FTEB) and the regional or provincial offices handling cases for consumer complaints and formal charges. All pleadings, motions and other documents, may be filed before the FTEB or its regional or provincial offices within the remaining reglementary period or

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prescriptive period, whichever is applicable, but such period shall in no case be less than five (5) calendar days reckoned from the effectivity of this memorandum circular.

SECTION 2. SUSPENSION OF RENDITION OF JUDGMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS. The suspension on rendition of judgments and other actions with FTEB or its regional or provincial offices is hereby lifted.

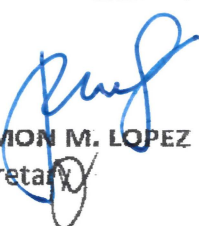
Any and all motions, notices and pleadings received during the community quarantine period shall be given due course upon the approval of this memorandum circular. In the same manner, the issuance of the memorandum circular does not invalidate any and all decisions or orders rendered during the suspension period.

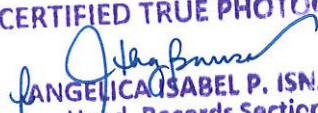
SECTION 3. INQUIRIES AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS. Any and all inquiries on cases and transactions shall be coursed through and acted upon using FTEB or regional or provincial offices' official contact numbers and email addresses. Submission of documents in line with any pending or active case with the department may be submitted personally or sent through email or courier. Provided, that in case of electronic submission, the original file and/or hard copies be likewise submitted via courier, registered mail or other means allowed by the rules, within five (5) days from the date of electronic submission.

SECTION 4. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If for any reason, any section, provision, or part of this memorandum circular, or the application of such section, provision, or part to any person, group or circumstances is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this memorandum circular shall not be affected by such declarations.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVITY. Given the presence of a public health emergency, this Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon its publication and filing with the Office of National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Issued this 30th day of September 2020 in Makati City.


RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary

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