

## [ MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 77, March 17, 2020 ]

### **DIRECTING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TO IMPLEMENT AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ISSUANCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND SUPPLIES, AND SELECTED AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY COMMODITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7581 or the "Price Act," as amended by RA No. 10623, provides that it is the policy of the State to provide effective and sufficient protection to consumers against hoarding, profiteering and cartels with respect to the supply, distribution, marketing and pricing of goods during periods of calamity, emergency and widespread illegal price manipulation:

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 of RA No. 7581, as amended, provides that unless otherwise declared by the President, prices of basic necessities in an area shall automatically be frozen at their prevailing prices or placed under automatic price control whenever, among others, the area is declared under a state of calamity or an emergency;

**WHEREAS**, through Proclamation No, 922 (s. 2020), the President declared a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the COVID-19 situation, and has called all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to undertake appropriate measures to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;

**WHEREAS**, through Proclamation No, 929 (s. 2020), the President declared a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of six (6) months, unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), has issued Memorandum Nos. 2020-0058, 0058-A and 0058-B (s. 2020), which mandate a price freeze on emergency medicines and medical supplies;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has issued Administrative Circular (AC; No- 1 (s. 2020), which imposes suggested retail prices on basic agricultural *and* fishery commodities in Metro Manila;

**WHEREAS**, upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Disensos under Executive Order No, 168 (s. 2014), the President has placed the entire National Capital Region under Community Quarantine starting 15 March 2020 and expiring on 14 April 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing global concern on the spread of the COVID-19 has increased the demand for essential emergency drugs and medical supplies, and