

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 20 - 15

**EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS FOR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS
AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE DURING THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY
QUARANTINE**

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued Memorandum Circular No. 20-08 dated 20 March 2020, identifying the business enterprises allowed to operate while Luzon is under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

WHEREAS, in his 28 March 2020 Memorandum on the Implementation of Temporary Measures Under Republic Act No. 11469 or the *Bayanihan Heal As One Act*, the Executive Secretary asked the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with the Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Health (DOH), to ensure the availability of essential goods, especially food and medicine.

WHEREAS, in a resolution adopted on 01 April 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved the recommendation to allow covered retail establishments under Section 2 of this Memorandum Circular, to extend their daily operating hours to a maximum of twelve (12) hours.

WHEREFORE, foregoing considered, this Memorandum Circular (MC) is hereby issued for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Section 1. Objective. – This Circular aims to ensure that covered establishments are able to serve the needs of more customers while strictly observing the requirements issued pursuant to the ECQ.

Section 2. Coverage. – All supermarkets, groceries, agri-fisheries stores, public markets, pharmaceutical and drugstores, and retailers of basic necessities and prime commodities, essential goods and medical products, shall be covered by this issuance.

Section 3. Extension of Retail Hours – To spread the flow of customers in keeping with the social distancing directives and enable the establishments to increase the number of people served daily, all retailers engaged in the sale and offering for sale of basic necessities and prime commodities, essential goods and medical products covered by RA No. 11469, are hereby allowed to operate up to a maximum of twelve (12) hours.

Section 4. Notice to Local Government Units (LGUs). – All LGUs shall abide by this DTI MC that emanated from the IATF Resolution as cited above. A copy of this Memorandum Circular shall be presented to the LGUs for implementation.

Section 5. Interpretation. – Any doubt shall be construed against any person, natural or juridical, disregarding the provisions hereof and, given the declared State of Public Health Emergency, shall be meted the corresponding penalty under applicable laws, regulations and ordinances.

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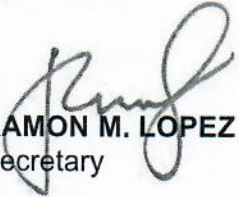

ANGELICA ISABEL P. ISNANI
Head, Records Section
Department of Trade & Industry

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sec. 6. Effectivity. – This Memorandum Circular shall be effective immediately.

Issued this 11th day of April 2020 in Makati City, Philippines.

Approved:



RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary

CERTIFIED TRUE PHOTOCOPY



ANGELICA SABEL P. ISNANI
Head, Records Section
Department of Trade & Industry