

## **Ease of Doing Business Law's IRR to be signed on Wednesday**

16 July 2019 – With his recent appointment as the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA)'s head on 3 July 2019, Director General Jeremiah Belgica, together with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez and Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairperson Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala, are set to sign and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 11032 on Wednesday, 17 July 2019.

R.A. 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 was signed into law on 28 May 2019 and took effect on 15 June 2019. Its full implementation, however, is premised on the issuance of the Law's IRR which, under the law, could only be signed by the Director General of ARTA. Nonetheless, while previously awaiting the appointment of the Authority's Director General, the groundwork to preparing the IRR for its signing had already been laid down.

The Law's IRR was prepared by DTI and CSC, with inputs and comments from several agencies. As the Temporary Secretariat of ARTA, the DTI Competitiveness Bureau conducted 70 consultative sessions and public consultations in 16 regions across the Philippines, and engaged the University of the Philippines Law Center for its legal review.

The final draft of the IRR was transmitted to the Office of the President, Office of the Executive Secretary, and the offices of Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Senator Aquillino "Koko" Pimentel III, Congressman Ferjenel Biron on 22 October 2018, and was subjected to further revisions as of 4 January 2019.

Another Public Consultation for the IRR was held on 13 February 2019 to solicit further comments on the IRR. Following consolidation and inclusion of inputs received from the said event, the Authority conducted a Public Hearing last 15 April 2019, which was presided by then Officer-in-Charge Ernesto Perez, CSC Chairperson Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala, and DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group Undersecretary Rafaelita Aldaba. The IRR's latest version was submitted to the Office of the President last 24 April 2019 and has then been ready for the Director General's approval.

Upon assuming office on 9 July 2019, Director General Belgica, together with the legal team of ARTA, had immediately started reviewing the latest draft of the IRR and has since then worked on finalizing it. He also met with CSC Chairperson dela Rosa-Bala and DTI Secretary Lopez to discuss its forthcoming signing.

The IRR signing will be held at PICC on Wednesday, 11:30 AM.

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