

# What's up @



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## DTI takes part in the 19<sup>th</sup> Consumer Welfare Month celebration



*DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (second from left) leads other DTI officials (from left to right: CPG Undersecretary Teodoro C. Pascua, FTED Assistant Director and OIC Ferdinand L. Manfoste, BPS Assistant Director Marimel D. Porciuncula, BPS Director-in-Charge Ann Claire C. Cabochan, PAB Director James E. Empeño) in launching the Department's activities in celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Consumer Welfare Month during the flag raising ceremony.*

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) participates in the nationwide celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Consumer Welfare Month (CWM) this October, officially launching the Department's activities on 26 September 2016 during the Flag Raising Ceremony.

This year's celebration is being led by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP), in cooperation with the National Consumer Affairs Council (NCAC), with the theme "*Consumer Protection: A Shared Responsibility*".

During the launch, **Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** updated DTI employees on pressing issues which include government efforts to make doing business easier. He cited Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 recently signed by the DTI, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

*"Tuloy naman ang interes ng mga foreign investors, trading partners dito sa [ating bansa]... Isa tayo sa fastest growing economies,"* he said.

To officially open the month-long celebration, **Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Director James E. Empeño, Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) Director-in-Charge Ann Claire C. Cabochan, Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (FTEB) Assistant Director and Officer-in-Charge Ferdinand L. Manfoste, and BPS Assistant Director Marimel D. Porciuncula**, led the first draw for the *Bantay-Presyo Pa-raffle*, in which employees can use their purchase receipts of basic and prime commodities as entries. There will be draws on all the Mondays of October, during flag raising ceremonies.

**Consumer Protection Group (CPG) Undersecretary Teodoro C. Pascua**, on his part, encouraged everyone to disseminate good news that is not usually reported in the mainstream media.

*“Sabi ko nga, mas marami ang nakikita, higit doon sa nababasa. Kadalasan kasi ang nakikita na lang natin yung maingay doon sa dyaryo, sa telebisyon, at sa radio, ngunit di nakikita yung mga ginagawa na kadalasan naman ay nandun sa ilalim at ‘yun ang mas tumatagal,”* Pascua said.

Throughout the month, CPG will be conducting different activities for employees, industries, consumer groups, and the general public. These events include participating in the BSP’s CWM exhibition (30 September), *Konsyumer Caravan sa Barangay* in the cities of Parañaque, Navotas, Manila and Quezon (4, 11, 18, 25 October), the CWM Mini-Exhibit in the DTI Main Lobby, the *Diskwento Caravan-CWM Edition* (12-14 October), and the celebration of the 42<sup>nd</sup> National Standards Week (8-14 October).

Also part of the celebration is the CWM Lecture Series for DTI employees and industries which will include the following topics:

- Laboratory Accreditation Technical Committee Meeting for Biological Testing (18 October, Center Conference Room, 6F DTI Main);
- Laboratory Accreditation Technical Committee Meeting for Chemical Testing (18 October, ITG Penthouse, ITG Building);
- Standards and Regulation (19 October, AVR-Penthouse, 6F Industry and Investments Building);
- Laboratory Accreditation Technical Committee Meeting for Calibration (20 October, Center Conference Room, 6F DTI Main);
- Sales Promo Witnessing (26 October, FTEB, UPRC Building); and
- Orientation on Accreditation and Certification of Persons (8 November, Conference Hall, 5F DTI Main).

Trainings, like ‘Leveraging on the WTO-TBT Agreement: Empowering MSMEs’ (25 October) and ‘Benefits and Uses of Standards and standardization Programs’ (4 November), are also included in CWM’s roster of activities. Moreover, there are activities for high school students and teachers including the 6<sup>th</sup> Standards’ Essay Writing Contest (4 November) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Broadcasting Seminar for KATBP *Bidang Konsyumer* and high school students (4 November). There will also be a BPS Technical Committee Forum for different industries (11 Nov).

Other activities for the CWM include the *Bagwis Awards* (21 October), the National Launch Ceremony for *E-Presyo*, the destruction of confiscated substandard and hazardous products, the *Undas Special Market Monitoring Activity*, and other media-related activities. For an updated and complete list of CWM activities, please visit <http://dti.gov.ph/consumers/consumer-welfare-month-activities>.

The celebration of CWM is pursuant to Proclamation No. 1098 s. 1997, signed by former **President Fidel V. Ramos** on 26 September 1997, declaring October as the CWM to encourage dissemination of sound consumer information by both the public and private sectors.