THE LAST TWG MTG ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILS. FOR 19TH CONGRESS BY HOUSE COMM. ON

Monday, 29 May 2023
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Â On 29 May 2023, PAGASA was very privileged to have been requested to physically attend the final meeting by the TWG of the Lower House on the amendments to the Consumer Act of the Philippines. Only two other entities were invited face-to-face as resource people to this Meeting: DTI led by Usec. Ruth Castelo representing the enforcer and the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. (PCFMI) led by Atty. Olive Misa of Monde Nissin for the side of the suppliers. All other 302 attendees participated online for this hybrid meeting. Joining online were FDA's Emilio Polig, PRA Chairman Atty. Paul Angelo Santos,Â reps. from DA, DOJ, BSP & other public agencies, the Advertising Standards Council, major manufacturers and representatives for the consumer groups: Jose Sosa of the Bulacan Consumer Affairs Council (BCAC), Jose Pepito of the National Association of Consumers, Inc. (NACI) & Lakas Konsyumer's George Bandola.Topics for this final meet dealt with basic minimum for product packaging & labelling, format of expiration dates, competitive pricing, proper price tagging, fair & truthful advertising/promotions, etc. PAGASA brought up the need for proper translation using stickers by suppliers for local/imported products that carry text using foreign characters or local dialects only given the proliferation of Chinese/Korean retail stores, the need for a standard legend in the order by which digits are written as expiration dates on products given the many ways producers view expiry of their products, how fresh produce may be properly labelled and the clarity of description of items being merchandised among others. Due to time constraint, topic on revival of the National Consumer Affairs Council (NCAC) was left for stakeholders to present via respective position papers.Meeting was well organized and led by TWG Chairman Valentino Palanca/Comm. Sec. of the House Committee on Trade & Industry, Eric Mendoza/Chief of Staff under Comm. Chairman Rep. Marvie MariÃ±o, Arlene Solomon and other staff of the same House Committee.

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