

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**, entered into this 14th day of April 2015 at Makati City, Metro Manila by and among:

The **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF)**, with principal office address at DOF Bldg., BSP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila, and represented herein by its Secretary, **Hon. Cesar V. Purisima**;

The **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)**, with principal office address at 361 Trade and Industry Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and represented herein by its Secretary, **Hon. Gregory L. Domingo**;

The **DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG)** with principal office address at DILG NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, represented herein by its Secretary, **Hon. Mar Roxas** and Undersecretary, Hon. Austere A. Panadero;

The **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF QUEZON CITY (QC-LGU)** with principal office address at Elliptical Road, Bargangay Central, Quezon City, represented herein by its Mayor, **Hon. Herbert M. Bautista**;

The **BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR)** with principal office address at BIR National Office Building, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, and represented herein by its Commissioner, **Hon. Kim S. Jacinto-Henares**;

The **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)**, with principal office address at SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, and represented herein by its Chairperson, **Hon. Teresita J. Herbosa**;

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS)**, with principal office address at SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, and represented herein by its President and CEO, **Emilio S. de Quiros, Jr.**;

The **PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PhilHealth)**, with principal office address at Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, and represented herein by its President and CEO, **Hon. Alexander A. Padilla**;

The **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Pag-IBIG Fund)**, with principal office address at Petron Megaplaza Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and represented herein by its Chief Executive Officer, **Hon. Darlene Marie B. Berberabe**;

The **NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (NCC)**, with principal office address at 3rd Floor, Tara Building, 389 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and represented herein by its Co-Chairman, **Mr. Guillermo M. Luz**;

Each a “**Party**”, and collectively as the “**Parties**”.

-WITNESSETH-

WHEREAS, the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Report of the World Bank International Finance Corporation (IFC) focuses on the regulations and institutions affecting small and medium-sized domestic businesses;

WHEREAS, the Doing Business Survey (DBS) of the IFC measures and tracks changes in business regulations across ten (10) indicators, namely: starting a business; dealing with construction permits; getting electricity; registering property; getting credit; protecting investors; paying taxes; trading across borders; enforcing contracts; and resolving insolvency;

WHEREAS, all the Parties are members of the inter-agency Task Force on Ease of Doing Business (EODB Task Force), which was created under Administrative Order No. 38, s. 2013 (AO 38) to ensure the implementation of the *Gameplan for Competitiveness*;

WHEREAS, the Parties aim to improve the ranking of the Philippines in the DBS by reducing the number of procedures in Starting a Business from 16 steps to a target of 6 steps and the length of time to complete such registration from 34 days to a target of 8 days;

WHEREAS, the Parties understand the importance of business regulation as a driving force of competitiveness and recognize the need to implement coherent economic policies in the context of a rapidly changing global economy;

WHEREAS, the Parties are fully cognizant of the need to collaborate and forge an alliance between and among the them to improve public services, enhance political accountability, and to formulate better economic policies through a holistic, interdisciplinary and long-term approach;

WHEREAS, the cooperation of all Parties is indispensable to the success of this collaborative effort to improve the overall competitiveness ranking of the Philippines in the EODB Ranking;

WHEREAS, to ensure the coherent and transparent implementation of programs and projects of the EODB Task Force, the Parties have agreed to execute this MOU that will embody the terms and conditions governing their relationships as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the Parties agree to undertake the following:

1. The Parties shall cooperate within the framework of their respective mandates and authority in the implementation of activities pursuant to this MOU and/or AO 38; provided, that specific cooperative activities initiated by the Parties to achieve the objectives of this MOU and/or AO 38 will be administered under separate project documents, and/or written agreements, duly signed by the Parties, and discussed in joint meetings.

2. The Parties hereby commit to do the following:
 - a. Establish networks and linkages between and among themselves for the exchange of data, reports or information;
 - b. Meet regularly to identify problem areas, if any, and resolve the same;
 - c. Periodically discuss the issues and challenges in EODB, and share successful approaches and practices and develop recommendations for their replication and institutionalization;
 - d. Undertake the following projects and activities in accordance with AO 38:
 - i. Review and develop policies, programs, and guidelines to ensure the proper implementation of the *Gameplan for Competitiveness*;
 - ii. Recommend to the President the issuance of the appropriate measures to promote transparency and efficiency in business practices;
 - iii. Implement various EODB reform initiatives aimed at improving the ranking of the Philippines in all ten (10) indicators and the overall Philippine ranking in the IFC DBS;
 - iv. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies for the inclusion of the targets set by the EODB Task Force in the performance targets of the concerned departments and agencies in their respective performance-based incentive systems;
 - v. Organize the necessary EODB teams to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the *Gameplan for Competitiveness*;
 - vi. Monitor and evaluate the proper implementation of programs and policies; and,
 - vii. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or as may be directed by the President for the successful implementation of AO 38.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signing by the Parties and shall remain in full force and effect unless revoked upon mutual written consent of all the Parties. No amendment, modification or supplement shall be valid and binding unless the same is in writing and agreed upon and signed by the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, through their respective duly authorized representatives, have hereunto affixed their signatures on this Memorandum of Understanding on the date and place first above written.

(Signature page follows)

CESAR V. PURISIMA
Department of Finance
Secretary

GREGORY L. DOMINGO
Department of Trade and Industry
Secretary

AUSTERE A. PANADERO
Undersecretary for Local Government
For:

HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
Local Government of Quezon City
Mayor

MAR ROXAS
**Department of Interior and Local
Government**
Secretary

KIM S. JACINTO-HENARES
Bureau of Internal Revenue
Commissioner

TERESITA J. HERBOSA
Securities and Exchange Commission
Chairperson

EMILIO S. DE QUIROS, JR.
Social Security System
President and CEO

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
President and CEO

DARLENE MARIE B. BERBERABE
Home Development Mutual Fund
Chief Executive Officer

GUILLERMO M. LUZ
National Competitiveness Council
Co-Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA) S.S.

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public for and in Makati City, Philippines on the date and at the place first above written, personally appeared the following:

	Competent Proof of Identification
Cesar V. Purisima	Passport No. DE0011199 issued on 01 Oct 2014 – DFA Manila
Gregory L. Domingo	DTI ID No. 04396
Austere Panadero	DILG ID No. 00055
Herbert M. Bautista	Passport No. EC3151462 issued on 10 Jan 2015 – DFA NCA Northeast
Kim S. Jacinto-Henares	BIR Employee ID No. 000-001
Teresita J. Herbosa	SEC ID No. 1235
Emilio S. De Quiros, Jr.	Driver's License No. N16-74-034761 expiring on 27 Sep 2017 – Quezon City
Alexander A. Padilla	TIN No. 134-534-852
Darlene Marie B. Berberabe	IBP Lifetime Member No. 03339
Guillermo M. Luz	Passport No. EB6049023 issued on 03 July 2012 – DFA Manila

who have satisfactorily proven to me their identity through their Identification indicated opposite their names, that they are the same persons who executed and voluntarily signed the foregoing Memorandum of Understanding which they acknowledged before me as their free and voluntary act and deed, that they are acting as the representative/attorney-in-fact of their respective principal, and that they have the authority to sign in such capacity.

The foregoing Memorandum of Understanding consisting of five (5) pages including the page on which this acknowledgment is written, has been signed on the left margin of each and every page by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal on the date above written.

Doc. No. _____
Page No. _____
Book No. _____
Series of 2015.