CIRCULAR LETTER

TO : ALL INSURANCE AND/OR REINSURANCE BROKERS DOING BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT : PERIOD FOR FILING OF 2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ATTACHMENTS WITHOUT PENALTY IN VIEW OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Section 437(d) of the Amended Insurance Code provides that the Commission shall have the power to prepare, approve, amend or repeal rules, regulations and orders, and issue opinions and provide guidelines on and supervise compliance with rules, regulations and orders;

WHEREAS, the IC Circular Letter (CL) No. 2020-23 dated 24 March 2020, directs all insurance and reinsurance brokers are required to submit their respective Audited Financial Statements (AFS) and attachments on or before 31 May of every year;

WHEREAS, the also IC issued Circular Letter (CL) No. 2014-15 dated 15 May 2014 entitled “Fees and Charges” (“Circular on Fees and Charges”);

WHEREAS, the Circular on Fees and Charges imposes penalties for the delay in the submission of the reportorial requirements as expressly enumerated in Item No. VII, paragraph B;

WHEREAS, in line with Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the IC is cognizant that the Philippines is continuing to implement travel restrictions and intensive health screening measures at transport hubs, including airports, sea ports and border crossings, as well as necessity to implement temporary suspension of business operations, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, these travel restrictions and/or temporary suspension of business operations pose specific challenges on the preparation of 2019 AFS.
WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has issued SEC Memorandum Circular No. 5 (s. 2020) dated 12 March 2020 to extend the filing of the 2019 annual reports including the applicable quarterly reports for the year 2020 and 2019 AFS.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 28-2020 dated 18 March 2020 to extend the filing and payment of 2019 Annual Income Tax Returns (AITR) from 15 April 2020 to 15 May 2020 without the imposition of penalties.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of all the foregoing and in accordance with Insurance Commissioner’s power under Section 437 of the Amended Insurance Code, the IC will accept the insurance and/or reinsurance broker’s 2019 AFS (including their required attachments) until 30 June 2020, without imposing any penalty.

This Circular Letter shall take effect immediately.

DENNIS B. FUNA
Insurance Commissioner