



MC No. 13, s. 2016

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

**TO :** ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES; DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs); LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs); GOVERNMENT OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS (GOCCs); AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

**SUBJECT :** 2016 World No Tobacco Day and No Smoking Month

In coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Civil Service Commission (CSC) enjoins all government agencies in celebrating the annual World No Tobacco Day (May 31, 2016) and the No Smoking Month (June 2016).

As the central human resource institution of the government, the CSC urges the entire Philippine civil service to be one in celebrating the aforementioned events. To promote public awareness in the observance of the events, all government agencies are encouraged to undertake related activities, such as:

- Hanging of the 2016 World No Tobacco Day and No Smoking Month banner<sup>1</sup> in all government agencies, including regional offices, local government units, and Philippine embassies and consulates. The banner carries the country's theme for the events, "*Graphic Health Warning: Full Blast na sa November!*" (*Sub-theme: Alamin. Unawain. Bantayan Natin.*), as announced by DOH;
- Participation in the online campaign titled, "GHW, Nandito Na" which will be conducted throughout June 2016<sup>2</sup>;
- Reiteration of the following tobacco control policies, through an Office Memorandum (OM), within the agency:
  1. CSC Memorandum Circular No. 17, s. 2009 (*Smoking Prohibition based on 100% Smoke Free Environment Policy*)

<sup>1</sup> See Annex A for the banner template and specifications; the template may also be accessed at [doh.gov.ph](http://doh.gov.ph) (Official website of the DOH) and <https://www.facebook.com/smokefree.civilservice>

<sup>2</sup> See Annex A for the mechanics of the online campaign

2. CSC-Department of Health Joint Memorandum Circular  
(*Protection of the Bureaucracy against Tobacco Industry Interference*);

- Inclusion of the CSC Memorandum Circular No. 17, s. 2009 and the CSC-DOH Joint Memorandum Circular 2010-01 as one of the agenda during the flag ceremony in the first week of June 2016;
- Feature the organization's calendar of activities and activity implementation reports relative to the World No Tobacco Day and No Smoking Month in their official websites, social media accounts and publications; and sending reports to CSC through email at [tobaccocontrolcoordinator@csc.gov.ph](mailto:tobaccocontrolcoordinator@csc.gov.ph).

As announced by the WHO, this year's theme for the World No Tobacco Day is "Getting ready for plain packaging," which emphasizes the call for better tobacco control measures. Plain packaging is a standardized packaging which requires the removal of all branding, permitting manufacturers to print the package in mandated format. However, the Philippines just started to implement **The Graphic Health Warnings (GHW) Law**, which requires tobacco companies to print graphic health warning templates on cigarette packs, last March 3, 2016. By November 4, 2016, all tobacco products shall carry graphic health warnings. Non-compliant packages found in the market for sale or distribution shall be subjected to removal and/or confiscation.

Thus, the DOH announced that the country's celebration of the two events on tobacco control will focus on the implementation of GHW Law with the theme: "*Graphic Health Warning: Full Blast na sa November!*" (Sub-theme: *Alamin. Unawain. Bantayan Natin.*)

Additional details about World No Tobacco Day and the No Smoking Month can be accessed online through the following websites:

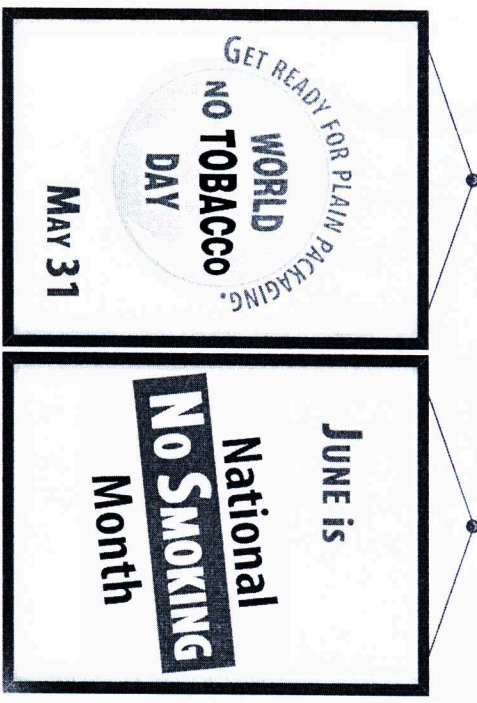
- <http://csc.gov.ph> (Official website of the CSC)
- <http://doh.gov.ph> (Official website of the DOH)
- <https://www.facebook.com/smokefree.civilservice> (Facebook page of the CSC-Project Management Unit)

Any inquiries or concerns related to these activities can be addressed to Mr. Michael John G. Amponin of the CSC-Project Management Unit (PMU) at Telephone No. 931-8095 loc. 461 or Email Address [tobaccocontrolpmu@csc.gov.ph](mailto:tobaccocontrolpmu@csc.gov.ph).

  
ALICIA dela ROSA-BALA  
Chairperson

27 MAY 2016

Name of Agency celebrates



**Graphic Health Warnings:  
Full Blast na sa November!**

*Alamin.  
Unawain.  
Bantayan natin.*

**DH**



**CSC**  
Republic of the Philippines  
**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
Para sa marami, LAHAT



Annex A

**Mechanics of the GHW, Nandito Na**

1. Any Facebook user may post one (1) photo per day for seven (7) days, which will show the importance of GHW. Photos that convey messages about health, protection of children and their future, protection of family and the like may be used.
2. He/she is encouraged to tag five (5) other friends to do the same. The Smoke Free Civil Service Facebook Account may also be tagged in the Photo. ([www.facebook.com/smokefreecivilservice](http://www.facebook.com/smokefreecivilservice)).
3. The official hashtag for the events is #GHWNow