

OFC-NTC Cooperation in Competition Policy and Law

RAMON NOLASCO, JR

Chief, Consumer Welfare and Protection Division National Telecommunications Commission



DOJ-Office for Competition

- enforce competition policies and laws to protect consumers from abusive, fraudulent, or harmful business practices;
- monitor and implement measures to promote transparency and accountability in markets

Priority Sectors

- Energy
- Telecommunications
- Transportation
- Commodities



National Telecommunications Commission

 maintain and improve a regulatory regime conducive to the development and provision of an affordable, viable, reliable and accessible telecommunications infrastructure and services



OFC Advisory Opinions on Telco

Advisory Opinion No. 1

Broadband and Mobile Internet Advertisements

- ISPs must not use false, deceptive or misleading advertisements
- Advertisements must fully disclose reasonable details
- The general public to be critical and prudent in their subscriptions



OFC Advisory Opinions on Telco

Advisory Opinion No. 2

Unlimited Internet Offers

- Unlimited data subscription is not unlimited due to FUP
- ISPs to utilize network management techniques that optimize data usage
- Users to be responsible and to limit heavy use during peak hours
- Regulatory agencies to review telcos promotions and conditions



Telco Regulatory and Legal Framework

<u>Under Executive Order No. 546</u>, the functions of the NTC include:

regulation of the operation of public service communications and prescription of charges or rates
sub-allocation of frequencies allocated by the ITU to the specific services and grant of permits for the use thereof
Promulgation of rules to encourage a more effective use of communication facilities, and promotion of effective competition among private entities in these activities



Telco Regulatory and Legal Framework

Under Republic Act No. 7925 (1995)

• A healthy competitive environment shall be fostered, one in which telecommunications carriers are free to make business decisions and to interact with one another in providing telecommunications services, with the end in view of encouraging their financial viability while maintaining affordable rates



OFC-NTC Engagement

- Continuing regulatory reforms in telco industry
- Gap assessment of existing regulatory framework
- Information-sharing on best practices
- Transparency in processes: targeted regulation and opportunities for deregulation