

CHEAPER MEDICINES RULES

THE Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines will hold public consultations on July 29 on the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9502, which will provide cheaper and quality medicines to Filipinos.

The agency said the consultation would consolidate the participants' recommendations in drafting the rules of the RA 9502, also known as the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008.

The rules will implement provisions related to intellectual property, specifically sections under Chapter 2 of the new law.

"Public consultation is an important part of the process in crafting the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9502. We intend to gather views and comments from the different sectors that will be affected by the new law," said Adrian Cristobal Jr., director general of IP Philippines, in a statement.

He said the consultations aimed to draw up regulations to pave the way for "our people to have access to affordable and quality medicines, maintain the patent system's incentive for innovation, and comply with our international treaty obligations." **Elaine Ruzul S. Ramos**