



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



RESOLUTION NO. 1348
Series of 2021

**POSTPONING AND RESCHEDULING THE APRIL 2021 OPTOMETRISTS LICENSURE
EXAMINATION - PRACTICAL PHASE TO OCTOBER 18, 19, 20 and 21 2021**

WHEREAS, Section 7 (d) of Republic Act No. 8981 or the PRC Modernization Act of 2000 empowers the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) to administer and conduct the licensure examinations of the various regulatory boards in accordance with the rules and regulations it may promulgate, and to determine and fix the places and dates of examinations;

WHEREAS, the Commission issued Resolution No. 1283 (s. 2020) scheduling the licensure examinations for calendar year 2021 wherein the Optometrists Licensure Examination (OLE) – Practical Phase is scheduled on April 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2021 to be held in the National Capital Region (NCR);

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID), through Resolution No. 105 dated March 25, 2021, approved the request of the Commission to conduct and administer the licensure examinations for professionals scheduled for May and June 2021, with observance of the strict health protocols as approved by the Department of Health. Agencies are directed to render full assistance for the safe and successful conduct of the examinations. To prevent transmission of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to low-risk areas, examinees from areas under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) are strongly discouraged from travelling to areas under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ);

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2021, the Office of the President placed the NCR under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), due to the continuing spike of confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country;

WHEREAS, the IATF-EID, in its letter dated March 30, 2021, directed the Commission to postpone the scheduled licensure examination for the month of April 2021 in those areas under the quarantine classification of GCQ to avoid cross border transfer of examinees;

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2021, the Professional Regulatory Board of Optometry (Board) and the Deans of different Optometry schools had a consultative meeting on the conduct of OLE-Practical Phase and discussed the urgent concerns of the examinees should there be further deferment:

1. Examinees coming from Visayas, Mindanao, Dagupan and Baguio need to renew their lease contracts for the extension of their stay;
2. Incurring additional expenses due to their long stay in Manila; and
3. Mental health of the examinees, their parents or guardians.

WHEREAS, in response to the concerns of the examinees coming from Dagupan, Baguio, Visayas and Mindanao, the Board proposed that all examinees from the said places be given priority to take the practical exam on the first day;

WHEREAS, the Board and the Licensure Office likewise considered the rescheduling of the OLE-Practical Phase to the next scheduled practical exam dates in October 2021 as the health and safety of all concerned were taken into account;

WHEREAS, in view of the announcement from the Office of the President on April 11, 2021, categorizing the NCR as under modified ECQ until April 30, 2021, the April 2021 OLE - Practical Phase administered in the NCR had to be postponed to comply with the directive of the IATF-EID dated March 30, 2021;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission **RESOLVES** to **POSTPONE** the **April 2021 Optometrists Licensure Examination – Practical Phase** and to **RESCHEDULE** it on **October 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2021**.

Let a copy of this Resolution be posted at the PRC Official website for information.

Done in the City of Manila this 21st day of April 2021.

TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.
Chairman

YOLANDA D. REYES
Commissioner

JOSE Y. CUETO, JR.
Commissioner