ABSTRACT

Thesis Title   : Legal Measures to Encourage non-Government organization to Participate Consumer protecton

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The objective of this research is to analyze the concept of the origin and consolidation of consumers and the roles played by organizations in the private sector in protecting consumers, as well as legal measures encouraging the participation of public sector organizations in the protection of customers.

This study revealed that roles being carried out by organizations in the private sector have not been very conspicuous despite governmental encouragement and support of organizations in the private sector to take part in the protection and identification of the interests of the consumers. In additon, the 1979 Royal Consumers Protection Act provides a method which enables organizations in the private sector to participate in the protection of consumers through "qualified committee members," as well as granting organizations in the private sector the right to initiate a court action on behalf of consumers. However. The aforementioned methods do not effectively empower organizations in the private sector because they fail to clearly delineate origin, proportion and recruitment of "qualified committee members," thus making the

process of getting a representative of private sector organizations elected, a difficult task. Regarding the method of consumer protection which grants the private sector organization the right to initiate court actions on behalf of consumers, the law clearly provides that only private organizations in the form of associations may so so. The legal process carried forward on behalf of a consumer is still dependent on general legal principles which require an association to prove that the business operator being charged is guilty and therefore it presents a difficult obstacle for the association in the form of time consumption and high expense.

The author therefore, recommends that the 1979 Royla Consumers Protection Act be amended as follows: 1. The clear definiton of the proportion, qualifications, origin and procedure for recruitment and selection of qualified committee members from private sector organizations in ad -hoc committees, as well as sub-committees for the Consumer Protection Committee; 2. A revision of the 1979 Consumer Protection Committee Act Section 40, so that private sector organizations assume the status of a legal entity with operating objectives for the protection of consumers with due rights and authority to initiate a court action on behalf of consumers; 3. A provision which makes initiation of court action free from the costs of action and / or execution; 4. An introduction of principles of resolute responsibility or entering a plea of guilty without penalty for purposes of enforcement, save in certain circumstances; 5. Authorization for the Consumer Protection Committee to make settlement regarding injury before initiating a court action; 6. The establishment of the Consumers Protection Fund to support budget related matters regarding private sector organizations; 7. The establishment of the Committee of Representatives of Consumers with the responsibility to suggest opinions regarding legislation of law, rules and regulations and to make recommendations in the stipulation of a variety of measures for the protection of consumers.

The author is of the opinion that the recommended measures will serve to increasingly encourage public sector organizations to become more efficiently active and powerful, as well as encourage more public sector organizations to participate in the protection activities regarding consumers, thus making the protection of consumers a more efficient and effective endeavor, while simultaneously tremendously easing the efforts required on the part of the public sector in the protection of consumers.