

## Press Release

**Department of Labor and Employment  
Bureau of Working Conditions  
22 August 2017**

### Shift, Shake and Seismic Change Towards TB Elimination

The Philippine Coalition against Tuberculosis (PHILCAT) in partnership with the Department of Health recently held its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention last August 17-18, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Manila Galleria in Quezon City. The theme “Shift, Shake and Seismic Change Towards TB Elimination”.

Dr. Marco Antonio S. Valeros of the Bureau of Working Conditions spoke on the topic “TB in the Workplace,” wherein he stressed the importance of the workplace in implementing health programs as it has stable population as well as structure, resources and manpower to implement such programs.

Tuberculosis remains to be a public health problem despite of the government’s previous undertakings to help curb the disease. Majority of its cases comes from economically productive individuals. Thus, the DOLE issued Department Order 73-05 otherwise known as “*Guidelines for the Implementation of Policy and Program on TB Prevention and Control in the Workplace*” in June 2005.

The policy requires all private workplaces to implement a rights-based policy and a program on TB that incorporates human rights standards and principles. It also covers all workers regardless of their employment status. The advisory also requires firms to include a policy on non-discriminatory, confidentiality, work accommodation, and arrangements for workers with tuberculosis. The workplace policy and program on workplace TB is a mandatory requirement of DOLE and is part of the mandatory Occupational Safety and Health requirements being monitored by the Department.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Valeros called on the participants to correlate the Convention’s theme with regard to the many possibilities of innovations in TB services as out of the box intervention and convergence to help advance the cause of TB care in the country.

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