

## **Press Release**

**Department of Labor and Employment**

**Bureau of Working Conditions**

**07 June 2017**

### **BWC calls for the Passage of OSH Law**

The Bureau supports any effort that will help improve the working conditions of workers in the private sector including legislative proposals that will strengthen compliance with occupational safety and health standards.

The recent spate of accidents and fire incidents have caused deaths and disabling injuries to quite a number of our workers. In addition we also have to look at the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) survey, which was released in October 2015, which showed that incidents of occupational diseases in the country are increasing. The survey showed cases of occupational diseases in establishments employing 20 or more workers doubling in 2013 at 171,787, from only 85,483 in 2011.

It is against this backdrop that we need to speed up the passage of Senate Bill No. 1317 or "An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof."

The bill seeks to amend the 41-year old Labor Code of the Philippines which does not declare unlawful violations of OSH Standards. At present, the DOLE Regional Director can only issue work stoppage order in cases of imminent danger pursuant to Article 128 of the Code. Putting a penalty clause which commensurate to the violations made for violations or would be violation is a strong deterrent to non-compliance and a big motivation for compliance of establishments to OSH.

As one of the pillars of Decent Work, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) plays a critical role in achieving the country's objective of advancing opportunities for our workers to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity.

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