

## **Press Release**

**Department of Labor and Employment  
Bureau of Working Conditions  
07 June 2017**

### **Review and Amendments of Occupational Safety and Health Standards in Full Swing**

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has hasten the upgrading of occupational safety and health standards (OSHS) to ensure compliance with labor laws and issuances and other social legislations.

The OSHS was formulated in 1978 and revised in 1989. It was created in compliance with the constitutional mandate to safeguard workers' social and economic well-being as well as their right to physical safety and health.

By virtue of Administrative Order (AO) No.21 Creating a Technical Working Group That Will Review Existing OSHS in Workplaces, Dr. Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco of BWC was designated as the chairperson of the group.

In its initial discussion and consultation of the different stakeholders, the panel has so far identified the overlapping mandates among the different government agencies in relation to the enforcement of OSH standards. Dr. Cucueco has viewed this as an opportunity to harmonize these different mandates for convergence and synergy of OSH in the different establishments. "At the end of the day, the beneficiaries of the changes that we will make are the workers. We, at the DOLE, are bound to protect and respect the constitutional right to health of all workers within the bounds of decent work," Dr. Cucueco said.

The technical working group has so far made an inventory of OSH standards and OSH-related issuances vis-à-vis international rules, regulations, and best practices. It has made consultations with the different stakeholders and has scheduled focus group discussions and tripartite island-wide consultations.

The response of the partners particularly the OSH Practitioners and Consultants as well as the Safety and Training Organizations has so far is very encouraging as they have contributed a lot in the OSH review.

It is hoped that by year's end, we can come up with the recommendations for the perusal of the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council prior to the approval of the Secretary.

/masv/