

Good News

Department of Labor and Employment

Bureau of Working Conditions

24 March 2017

Working Together for Better Care

The DOLE recently graced the first Philippine Symposium on Rare Disease with a theme "Working Together for Better Care." The activity was spearheaded by the Department of Health and UP-National Institute for Health at Century Park Hotel. It was attended by various stakeholders from the government, NGO, patients groups and People's Organizations.

Signed on March 3, 2016, Republic Act No. 10747 otherwise known as Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines seeks to improve the access of patients diagnosed to have a rare disease, or patient highly suspected of having a rare disease, to comprehensive medical care and to timely health information to help them cope with their condition. Under this Act, patients with rare disease will also be considered as persons with disabilities and will be granted benefits and privileges such as priority programs and discounts as mandated by the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

Cognizance of the Labor Code provision of protection to labor, promotion of full employment and of ensuring equal work opportunities to all, the Department of Labor and Employment guaranteed to provide employment opportunities for able-persons with rare diseases. The Labor Code of the Philippines as amended is replete with provisions on protection for this special group of people from pre-employment to post-employment, more so during the actual employment as anti-discrimination and work accommodation.

Thus, with regard to employment, there are no rare opportunities for people afflicted with rare disease. The Department recognizes that persons afflicted with the disease can also be productive members of the society if given employment opportunities.

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