

Good News

Department of Labor and Employment

Bureau of Working Conditions

24 January 2018

Orientation of Labor Inspectors on the Implementation of DO 156-16



The Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) organized an orientation on the conduct of inspection in the Fishing Industry. The said event was held on 12 January 2018 at the Local Governance and Learning Center, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila. Focal persons from all regions were invited for them to be properly guided on what they should look into once inspection will set forth in the latter part of this month. It was highlighted by the speakers for inspectors to help fishing companies to be compliant with Department Order No. 156, Series of 2016 (DO 156-16), otherwise known as the Rules and Regulations Governing the Working and Living Conditions of Fishers on Board Fishing Vessels Engaged in Commercial Fishing Operations, and make it easier for them to comprehend the contents of the same in order to resolve and clear any ambiguity as to the contents of the Department Order (DO) at issue.



DO 156-16 was issued by former DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz and became effective on 01 July 2016. Prior to its issuance, several consultations were conducted nationwide in order to gather the opinion and inputs of the stakeholders on its drafting phase. The Institute for Labor Studies (ILS) and the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) likewise conducted their own research separately in support to the findings and mandates of the DO. Despite all efforts and due diligence exerted in gathering the data, the labor and employer group were still inevitably divided. Several oppositions were received from the employer group alleging that they were not consulted and that DO 156-16 was issued whimsically and with prejudice.



Nonetheless, DO156-16 has to be implemented as it is the obligation of the State to protect the fishers and ensure that they receive just share in the fruits of their production. On the Tripartite Consultation Meeting held on 18 October 2017, Undersecretary Joel Maglunsod emphasized that DO 156-16 is the State's commitment to safeguard the basic rights of fishermen and likewise our commitment to comply with the International Labor Standards. In partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), the latter will be holding a workshop which would aim to help stakeholders better understand DO and illustrate computation for compensation and social protection premium contributions.

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