

**Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
29 August 2018**

PRESIDENT DUTERTE SIGNED 'SAFER WORKPLACE' LAW

On 17 August 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law a measure aimed at enhancing compliance with safety and health standards in workplaces throughout the country. Republic Act No. 11058 entitled "An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards And Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof" seeks to amend the 41-year-old Labor Code of the Philippines which does not impose a fine nor declare unlawful, violations of the OSH standards.

"The signing of OSHS Bill into a law is a resounding victory for all our workers", said Senator Joel Villanueva, author of the measure and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development. "I am personally thankful to the President for supporting this cause to provide a safe and healthy workplace for our workers," he added.

The measure gives workers the right to refuse to work if hazardous situations occur in their workplace. The employer must provide proper protective gear and a safe environment so as not to expose his workers to hazards which may cause illness, injury or even death.

RA 11058 also requires: safety signages and devices, safety in the use of equipment, OSH information, program and committee, safety officer, occupational health personnel and facilities and OSH report and trainings.

It further authorizes the Secretary of Labor and Employment and/or his representative to enter workplaces at any time of the day or night where work is being performed to examine records and investigate facts and conditions necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of the OSH law.

Employers who will fail to comply with the law will face a maximum penalty of P100,000.00 for each and every day of non-correction of violation, counted from the date the employer or contractor is notified of the violation.

Villanueva said the OSHS law will "prevent workplace injuries or deaths, work-related disorders such as musculoskeletal disorders and occupational lung diseases and ensure that workplace health and safety is everyone's responsibility."

The labor department is now in the process of crafting the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 11058. "We look forward to its full compliance after we have crafted its IRR within the next ninety (90) days," Undersecretary Joel Maglunsod said in a statement.

"This is a landmark legislation aimed at the full well-being of our workers. This administration will continue to exert all efforts for the protection of the rights of workers to safe and healthful workplaces, and the promotion of their welfare", Maglunsod added.