Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
13 December 2018

COUNTDOWN TO REGULARIZED WORKERS: 312,414 AND COUNTING

The DOLE has surpassed its self-imposed target of 300,000 workers it targeted for regularization this year. As of November 16, 2018, the Bureau of Working Conditions MIS Unit tallied a total of 312,414 workers from reports of the DOLE's 16 Regional Offices, translating to a 104.1% accomplishment. This is part of the eight (8) point Labor and Employment Agenda of President Duterte's Administration. This is a significant number which demonstrates the employers' cooperation with the government.

The BWC attributed the increase of employers' compliance with regularization laws to the strict enforcement of the DOLE's two pronged approach in its anti-illegal contractualization drive. This is done through the employers' voluntary regularization of their employees by filling a Letter of Voluntary Commitment before the DOLE Regional Office having jurisdiction over the workplace pursuant to Labor Advisory No. 06, Series of 2017, or through the DOLE's enforcement activities. In the latter, the Labor Inspector shall determine the existence of labor only contracting, the number of employees affected before he endorses and recommends appropriate actions to the DOLE's Regional Office.

This development is without prejudice to the Security of Tenure Bill which was certified as urgent by no less than President Rodrigo Duterte. The proposed measure would prohibit labor-only contracting, and provide penalties for violation; limit job contracting to licensed and specialized services; classify workers into regular and probationary employees – and treat project and seasonal employees as regular employees; provide security of tenure; clarify standards on probationary employment; and provide "Transition Support Program" for employees while they are not at work or transitioning in between jobs.

This right based measure is believed that the measure would remove the ambiguities in the Labor Code, which is the source of circumventions when it comes to regularization.

-MASV-