

**Press Release**

**Department of Labor and Employment**

**Bureau of Working Conditions**

**26 March 2018**

**DOLE “MAKING CHANGE WORK FOR WOMEN”**

The National Women’s Month Celebration (NWMC) every March is part of the worldwide observance of the International Women’s Day (IWD). Consequently, Republic Act (RA) 6949 s. 1990 has set March 8 of every year as National Women’s Day. In 2017, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Board Members and Inter-Agency Technical Working Group identified the NWMC theme “We Make Change Work for Women”, which shall be used from 2017-2022. It resonates the call for gender-balance in leadership and decision-making; inclusion of women’s concerns in platforms and the government’s development agenda; and capacitating and preparing women to reach their ambitions. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), cognizance of the importance of women and other disadvantaged groups in nation building has always been for the advancement of these rights in the world of work.

Working conditions and the working environment are sources of health hazards for both men and women. In general terms there is no great difference between men's and women's biological response to physical, biological or chemical hazards; nonetheless, the DOLE has always been upholding the rights of women in its enforcement activities. It strengthened the implementation of labor standards that affords full protection for the country’s women workers. From the 57,661 establishments that were inspected last year, results show that around 9 out of every 10 establishments nationwide comply with provision of maternity leave (99.31%), solo parent leave (99.28%), Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) leave (99.34%), special leave for women (99.35%), Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009 Lactation Station/ Lactation Break (96.18%) and Anti-Sexual Harassment Law (93.02%).

The DOLE has this perspective that all regardless of gender, type and nature of work and nationality must equitably access workers’ rights.

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