

**Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 September 2018**

UNITY AMIDST DIVERSITY FOR OSH

Republic Act 11058 “An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards” was signed into law on August 17, 2018 and was published on August 22, 2018 on Manila Bulletin.

While it is envisioned that this law will ensure compliance to OSH, it is a known fact that occupational safety and health is a cross-cutting issue among the different government agencies. For this reason, the DOLE called for an inter-government meeting last 22 September 2018. The meeting’s main objective was to determine the possible areas of coordination and collaboration among these agencies. The result of the consultation shall be the basis for the development of mechanism for coordination for inclusion in the on-going drafting of the IRR.

The government agencies that are included in the law are the following: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Department of Information and Communications Technology and all other government agencies, including local government units. In her message, Bureau of Working Conditions Director Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, underscored the importance of coordination not only to prevent duplication, but also to synergize the efforts of the different agencies. Though the agencies have different mandates, when it comes to the workers’ welfare, the agencies are one in ensuring this important right in the workplace. All the agencies, who were present in the meeting committed themselves in safeguarding the OSH concerns of their clients.

It is hoped that the regular meetings would ensure all comprehensive efforts, new policies and the realignment of occupational safety and health directions would be integrated into all levels of society. The inter-agency is seen to boost the Occupational Safety and Health of the country’s capabilities in terms of enforcement of the laws and regulations in totality.

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