

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
29 April 2019

ADDITIONAL 4 SOCIAL PARTNERS INCLUDED IN THE 2019 GENERAL AUTHORITY

On 16 April 2019, Administrative Order No. 117-A, Series of 2019 (AO 117A-19) was issued – authorizing an additional four (4) social partners to participate in the conduct of routine inspection and attend mandatory conferences until 31 December 2019 unless earlier revoked. AO 117A-19 is an addendum to Administrative Order No. 117, Series of 2019 whereby two hundred thirty-seven (237) authorized social partners were included in the 2019 General Authority. To date, the Department of Labor and Employment have authorized two hundred forty-one (241) social partners.

All social partners shall be bound by the rules and procedures provided under Administrative Order No. 164, Series of 2017 (AO 164-17) and Memorandum issued on 31 August 2017. Under AO 164-17, it provides that all authorized social partners shall be under the direct control and supervision of their respective DOLE Regional Director.

As an authorized social partner, the following shall be the limitation of his/her role in the conduct of inspection activities and attendance to mandatory conferences: (1) interview workers in the presence of a Labor Inspector and employer's representative; (2) review employment records, however, only the Labor Inspector may obtain copies of employment records and keep affidavits of workers; (3) affix his/her signature in the Notice of Results indicating his/her concurrence and observations in the inspection activity conducted; and (4) attend in the mandatory conferences of establishments he/she have inspected.

Due to limited and inherent limitations in the disbursement of government funds, the participation of authorized social partners shall be *pro bono* in nature and voluntary. With the issued general authority for social partners, the DOLE looks forward on its strengthened relationship with all of its stakeholders.

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