

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
29 April 2019

DOLE CONDUCTS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC COMPLIANCE IN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), with the assistance of the International Labour Organization, conducted an Inter-Agency Capacity Building Workshop on Strategic Compliance in Export Processing Zone on 29 March 2019 at Bayleaf, Intramuros, Manila.

PEZA is a Philippine government agency tasked to promote investments, extend assistance, register, grant incentives to and facilitate the business operations of investors in export-oriented manufacturing and service facilities inside selected areas throughout the Philippines. Representing numerous companies across the country, PEZA has generated over one (1) million jobs and contributed significantly to the growth of the Philippine economy. This is a feat which rationalizes the DOLE's resolve to safeguard the welfare and promote the well-being of our country's workforce.

Given the nuances of work arrangements and processes in this sector, the workshop was held to capacitate the DOLE inspectors and the PEZA management with DOLE's inspection procedures. The workshop also became an avenue for possible determination of areas of collaboration between the DOLE and the PEZA.

Ultimately, the workshop aimed for self-regulation. At its most basic level, self-regulation is the manner in which all firms self-police their own activities to ensure that they meet all fiduciary and other duties to their clients. Self-regulation and DOLE oversight are the foundations upon which compliance resides.

At the end of the workshop, it was agreed upon that the PEZA and the DOLE shall forge a Memorandum of Agreement on possible areas of collaboration between the two agencies. Nonetheless, this is without prejudice to the DOLE's exercise of its visitorial and enforcement powers under Article 128 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended.

-MASV-