

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 March 2019

237 SOCIAL PARTNERS INCLUDED IN THE 2019 GENERAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Articles 128 and 303 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended and as renumbered, Administrative Order No. 164, Series of 2017 (AO 164-17) and in line with the implementation of Department Order No. 183, Series of 2017, otherwise known as the Revised Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Laws, Administrative Order No. 117, Series of 2019 was signed by Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III on 27 March 2019.

The recently issued Administrative Order provides for the general authority of social partners to participate in the conduct of DOLE inspection activities and attendance to mandatory conferences until 31 December 2019 unless earlier revoked. For the year 2018, a total of 213 social partners were authorized by the Secretary of Labor and Employment. The numbers provided translates to an increase of 24 social partners or 10.13%.

All social partners shall be bound by the rules and procedures contained in 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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