

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 March 2019

DOLE LAUDED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION ON THE COUNTRY'S BATTLE AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

World Tuberculosis Day is an annual awareness day being observed every 24th of March to raise awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) epidemic and to accelerate global and national efforts towards its elimination.

March 24 was the day in 1882 when the TB bacilli was discovered which later on paved way for the standard diagnosis and treatment of TB disease. This year's national theme is "#EndTBNOWNa!" The theme aims to raise public awareness and promote a unified action against tuberculosis as a continuing health menace.

During the World TB Day Celebration which was held at De La Salle University (Manila Campus), speaking before a crowd of more than 2,000, Dr. Felix Labanda Jr. of the Bureau of Working Conditions shared the 2018 data from DOLE-MIS on the compliance of establishments to DOLE DO 73-05 otherwise known as the TB Workplace Control and Prevention Program. The 2018 data presented a compliance rate of 89.72%, higher than the 2017 compliance rate of 89.63%. The 0.09% increase may be translated to more or less 1000 more compliant establishments with the mandatory Occupational Health Program. The numbers are expected to rise with the recent signing of Republic Act No. 11058 entitled *An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof* or simply known as the Philippine OSH Law.

Dr. Labanda also relayed that there are still many gaps in the implementation mechanism that DOLE must hurdle to realize our long term goal for a TB-Free Philippines. The DOLE sees these challenges as a pathway to engagement and progress. The commitment and enthusiasm of all stakeholders involved in TB eradication is the country's strength in our journey towards the realization of our goal of ending TB. Hold a great promise that together we can achieve this challenging task of making every Filipino worker attain decent and productive employment.

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