

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
31 May 2019

RIGHTS OF WORKERS RECOGNIZED IN THE PHILIPPINE CANCER ACT

The Bureau of Working Conditions shares the same view with the authors of RA 11215 otherwise known as the Philippine Cancer Act, that the best way to fight cancer is through the institutionalization of a systematic, well-organized, well-coordinated, well-funded, patient and family centered integrated cancer control program.

Having the needed infrastructure and resources, the workplace offers an excellent setting for building awareness on health and lifestyle issues. A platform in which it provides motivation and support for health improvement, and in creating workplace environments in which health culture may be built upon. But from the DOLE's perspective, our country's workers deserve even more which is the very reason, why the Bureau lauds the Act as it is replete with provisions on the workers' rights.

The DOLE in its all undertakings has always considered the promotion of equal opportunities on employment for everyone regardless of illness. Companies are directed in the Act to have a policy on confidentiality, non-discrimination, non-termination of employment and provision of beneficial work arrangements for workers with cancer. Under this Act, all private workplaces shall advocate for cancer awareness, prevention and control through seminars, trainings, orientation. Employers are likewise directed to provide a referral system for workers for cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment and care.

As part of the country's social protection mechanism, companies are mandated to implement a Cancer Control Policy that shall form part of employee's benefits in the formal sector covering the entire cancer continuum, from prevention and risk assessment to early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, survivorship, palliative and hospice care as provided in PD 626 or the Employees Compensation Program.

The DOLE incidentally as member of the National Integrated Cancer Control Council is part of the TWG that are currently drafting the IRR of this Act which is projected to be issued last week of June or early July of this year.

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