

**Press Release**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
**30 October 2019**

## **DOLE ADVANCES UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW**

The newly issued Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, ensures holistic health care for every Filipino by reorienting health care towards health promotion and preventive care, from a curative care focused system. The law also rightfully put primary care at the heart of health service delivery by emphasizing the provision of essential health services.

Operationalization of the law requires a team approach. As member of the PhilHealth Board, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provides assistance to the said Board by ensuring compliance of establishments to its registration and remittance requirements.

The marginal population of health professionals in the country, the DOLE considers this as a problem that needs immediate action. The Philippines, as a major exporter of health care professionals, constantly grapples with shortage of health providers. This inevitably leads to poor quality of health care and high-stress levels among health professionals.

In view thereof, the DOLE warrants the supply of health care workers in the country through: (1) effective career guidance in communicating the demand to senior high school students and their parents; (2) improvement of working conditions in the health care industry to discourage health professionals from leaving the country; and (3) reintegration of returning Overseas Filipino Worker health care professionals.

The road towards UHC may still be rough as issues on funding and service packages are both work in progress. For the DOLE, the signing of the law is a big leap towards reforming the country's health care system. The DOLE embraces its shared goal and commitment to protect and keep decent and productive work in every workplace.

*-MASV-*