

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE pays tribute to frontliners

As the country commemorates Labor Day on May 1 amidst the chaos and fears brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the labor department deemed it appropriate to give tribute to the country's first line of defense against the virus. They are fearless men and women who are braving the pandemic to protect and help the country in its fight against the disease. Majority of them have to make the big sacrifice of leaving their families behind for weeks, not to mention the fear of them being infected.

Frontliners are not limited to health workers. Bank workers, workers of essential goods and services, workers who are part of the skeletal workforce of the government, barangay volunteers and all workers who are required to work despite of the Luzon-wide lockdown are likewise considered frontliners, including those who are involved in providing peace and order, and safety and security. The country saw firsthand the kind of sacrifices these workers make, and the dedication they put in their noble profession.

They battle fear, homesickness, and in some cases, discrimination from their neighbors and community. On the bright side, majority of Filipinos still value their immense contribution to the country. As a matter of fact, a number of people launched fund drive for food and personal protective equipment (PPE) for them especially in the early days of the lockdown when the country has to contend with the scarcity of PPEs.

A number of them have been infected and some had even succumbed into death. The labor department shares the grief of their families at the passing of selfless individuals who risked their lives for others as they fought to save the lives of many of our countrymen. It is worthy to note that Filipino frontliners, especially health care workers, are appreciated and valued not only in our country but also around the world.

The appreciation has snowballed and translated to citizen-initiated free rides, free lodging and organized community applause and cheers. But more than this expression of appreciation is the country's recognition and declaration that they are our country's modern-day heroes who still show up to work every day despite of all the odds.

There is no question that the DOLE always values the dignity of labor of every profession, but in this crisis, few would disagree that they deserve rightful recognition. It is their selfless service, sacrifice and placing the welfare of their

countrymen that puts them above the rest. The Department is requesting everyone to include our frontliners in our everyday prayers.

It is everybody's wish that this pandemic will finally come to its end and work in the private and public sector resumes back to its normal operation. The government as well as the country's frontliners cannot do it by themselves. It is through cooperation and solidarity as united citizens of the Philippines that will make the country "Heal as One" in this difficult time.

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