

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 February 2020



DOLE-BWC ATTENDS 1ST NATIONAL SUMMIT OF SAFE SEAS PROJECT

The Plan International, through its Safeguarding Against and Addressing Fisheries' Exploitation at Sea (SAFE Seas), organized its first national SAFE Seas Project. The national summit was held at Hue Hotel, Puerto Princesa, Philippines from the 27th - 28th of February 2020.

Present to said summit are members of the Safe Fishing Alliance, LGU project partners in Puerto Princesa and Taytay, and government agencies with policies and programs applicable to the fishing industry. The summit is a two-day national summit with the end view of strengthening project implementations in the fishing industry by identifying key policy and program recommendations.

Mr. Nicanor V. Bon, Chief Labor and Employment Officer of the BWC-Policy and Program Development Division, shared the role and mandate of the Department of Labor and Employment relative to the fishing industry. He shared that should there be any abuse or violation of labor laws, the DOLE is always ready to assist its stakeholders. He likewise encouraged everyone to sustain the Department's existing issuances applicable to the fishing industry and added that there will come a time when forced labor will no longer be present in the industry. In closing his message, he said: "Everyone, especially employers, should see the light of it and comply voluntarily with labor laws."

At present, the governing issuance of the Department applicable to the fishing industry is DOLE Department Order No. 156, Series of 2016 (DO 156-16) entitled *Rules and Regulations Governing the Working and Living Conditions of Fishers on Board Fishing Vessels Engaged in Commercial Fishing Operation*.

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