

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
30 July 2020

DOLE supports the observance of National Disaster Month

In observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) this July, the DOLE calls on all its stakeholders to support the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) programs geared towards attaining resilience in this time of pandemic.

The NDRM observance reiterates the importance of understanding disaster risks, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, enhancing preparedness for effective response. Disasters in any forms may occur anytime. Thus, everybody should be informed on how to respond to any disaster even at this time of pandemic

In a video recorded message, Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III cited the importance of support of everybody as the country tries to rebuild in its current situation as he enjoined the different DOLE's stakeholders to support this year's observance of National Disaster Month. This year's theme, "*Sama-samang Pagsulong tungo sa Katatagan sa Gitna ng Bagong Normal*" could never have been more timely as it is now, as the country cannot move forward and heal as one if there is no cooperation and collaboration among the different stakeholders.

For the part of DOLE, the Department has partnered with DTI in the issuance of the Interim Guidelines for COVID 19 Prevention and Control. The DOLE issued guideline is replete with safety and health protocol for employers and workers whom they shall observe in the "new normal" The new normal highlighted health consciousness in every aspect of our activities of daily living including work. It is about resetting and making practices more efficient and easier for employers and workers to do amidst the pandemic.

This should t be viewed as an opportunity for us to partake in the rebuilding efforts of the government. It highlighted the establishment's obligation to protect its workers while resuming business operations considering the continuing threat of COVID-19.

The country's mitigation response for COVID 19 is seen to prevent further disaster – the second wave of the pandemic. We can only accomplish this thru compliance to safety and health programs of the government of all concerned. This compliance is seen to enhance business resilience and sustainability in this time of pandemic.

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