

## **Good News**

**Department of Labor and Employment**

**Bureau of Working Conditions**

**25 November 2020**

### **DOLE recognized for its Kabuhayan Program for drug surrenderees**

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), through the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), presented the Department's approach in the prevention, control, and rights-based intervention of its drug-free workplace program during the second online symposium on best practices of Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program on 20 November 2020 via Zoom Videoconferencing.

The symposium, organized by the Department of Interior and Local Government, through the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers Unit of Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy - Project Management Office, mainly targeted the local government units, civil society organizations, national government agencies and other partner stakeholders involved in implementing community-based drug rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

For its rehabilitation and reintegration course, the DOLE implemented its Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) or "Kabuhayan Program" which was recognized as one of the National Government's Agencies Best Practices. Throughout this program, hundreds of thousands of drug surrenderees were able to start a new lease of life through livelihood opportunities.

The DILP aims to contribute to the national effort of poverty reduction through livelihood projects, training support, and employment opportunities, which focus explicitly on vulnerable and marginalized workers, including the drug surrenderees.

The National Government Agencies also include the DOLE, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills and Development Authority, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine National Police and the Dangerous Drugs Board, joined by nine (9) other Local Government Units which also presented their best practices.

During the open forum, Dr. Marco Antonio S. Valeros of DOLE-BWC underscored the importance of adequate funding, localized implementation through the DOLE Regional Offices, and collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders for the sustainability of the implementation of the DILP program.

Legal process, spiritual and moral reformation, mental and physical rehabilitation, and livelihood and employment provision to the beneficiaries are among the rehabilitation and reintegration programs presented, intending to improve the lives of the surrenderees to become beneficial members of society.

*-MASV & AJRB-*