

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE sees resilient manufacturing sector amidst the pandemic

The Philippine manufacturing industry remains to be the most important sector for long-term productive employment, value-added generation, and innovation. It has the highest multiplier effect on the economy compared to others.

In fact, the Department of Labor and Employment considers this sector as one of the Key Employment Generating Sectors (KEGS) in the country. In 2016, the Department of Trade and Industry Board of Investments (DTI-BOI) computed the contribution of the manufacturing industry to the country's GDP as 23.8% with 3.2 million employees in the workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken manufacturing industries profoundly and is already ushering host of challenges to the sector, especially to those that depend on workers whose function cannot be carried out remotely. It is on this note that majority of manufacturers expects that the pandemic will have a financial impact on their businesses.

In light of the foregoing, the DOLE engaged employers and workers in the manufacturing industry for a virtual series of DOLE "Kamustahan" on October 7, 2020. This is to check on their labor and employment concerns with the end view of assisting the industry in terms of business survival, job preservation, and ensuring the workers' welfare through tripartite collaboration.

Bureau of Labor Relations Director Maria Consuelo Bacay was the moderator while, Undersecretary Joji Aragon, Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita Cucueco and Assistant Secretary Dominique Tutay took turns in answering the many concerns of the industry, ranging from the implementation of government-issued COVID-19 policies, financial aid during the pandemic, and labor and employment issues in the sector amidst this pandemic.

While plant closures, either full or partial could continue to be necessary for manufacturers in hard-hit subsectors for a prolonged period, safeguarding consumers and workforce health is the DOLE's priority. Uncertainties surrounding the duration of these conditions clouds any insights on how the industry will recover. The resource persons assured that beleaguered manufacturing companies may be eligible for government stimulus support.

Some of the companies conveyed that they already have business continuity plans, but many may still not fully address the fast-moving and unpredictable variables of COVID-19. This is the very reason why the DOLE needs to know the "inside story" of this sector as the Department is adamant in helping the manufacturing sector survive this crisis.

The commitment shown by the participants is enough reason for the DOLE to be certain of the survival and recuperation of the manufacturing sector amidst the crisis.

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