

Good News

Department of Labor and Employment

Bureau of Working Conditions

26 October 2020

DOLE-BWC discusses the future of work under the New Normal

The National Trade Union Center (NTUC Phl), in cooperation with the Japan International Labour Foundation (JILAF), recently held its webinar on Employment Security and Industrial Relations with the theme “Responding to the New Future of Work and Work Relations in the time of Pandemic” last October 22, 2020.

The webinar's objective was to provide its members with updated information on labor and employment to better appreciate new realities under COVID-19. This is to help the Union members identify the national and enterprise-level strategic and concrete actions in this new normal.

Department of Labor and Employment-Bureau of Working Conditions' (DOLE-BWC), Dr. Marco Antonio Valeros and Ms. Sarah Kay Juan were the resource persons on the Session on Labor Law Compliance, Labor Inspection, and OSH in COVID-19, where they discussed the current DOLE issuances and inspection system in the new normal.

Some of the issuances discussed were the OSH legislations, Joint Memorandum Circular 20-04-A series of 2020 or the DTI and DOLE Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Labor Inspection (LI) pursuant to the Department Order (DO) No. 183, Series of 2017, alongside DO No. 213 Series of 2020 – Prescribing Guidelines in the Prescription of Actions and the Suspension of Reglementary Periods to File Pleadings, Motions and other Documents, and DO No. 214-20 or the “Guidelines on Processes and Proceedings before the office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment, Bureaus and Regional Offices in Areas under Community Quarantine”

The Bureau strives for the better working condition in the formulation and implementation of COVID-19 workplace prevention and control programs. This is evident in the Department's labor inspectors' monitoring efforts where they do not just look into the overall compliance of establishments, but also in assisting establishments towards full compliance and understanding of the importance of occupational safety and health through technical assistance.

The resource persons emphasized that compliance with the DOLE's prescribed minimum health standards is the most critical requirement for maintaining operations and ensuring business continuity in COVID-19 time. This shall form the backbones of a successful return to work scheme—a balance between economy and safety and health.

In their concluding remarks, Dr. Valeros and Ms. Juan underscored the importance of shared responsibility in the country's journey to recovery.

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