

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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Unity amidst diversity for COVID-19

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Department of Labor and Employment has been responding rapidly, working with other agencies and stakeholders in the country to cushion the impact of COVID 19 in labor and employment. Given the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the local scene, it will be a challenging task for the DOLE to help the country's economy to bounce back.

In a Focus Group Discussion hosted by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) on 11 September 2020, to document the country's response system on COVID 19 as well as our international cooperation, the DOH, DILG, DOLE, DSWD, DOJ and DOT shared the different agency's responses and their respective ways forward in the National Action Plan for COVID 19. Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco shared the DOLE's programs on CAMP, TUPAD and AKAP for affected workers. She also discussed the salient features of the DTI DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular 2020-04 A or the "Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19" which furthers national efforts to minimize the transmission of the virus in the workplace.

While the country's utmost priority is to protect public health amid the pandemic as our economy gradually opens, still the different government agencies that were present are one in their stand that the country will succeed in mitigating the effects of the disease if all of us will play our roles to the fullest. The government, the private sector as well as citizenry will all do their share in our recovery program.

The immediate convening of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for Emerging Diseases was identified as the country's best practice in its response to the pandemic. In the discussion, the importance of clear and harmonized policies, awareness rising, capacity building and funding for economic stimulus were suggested as ways forwards by all the agencies present in the forum.

The IATF was seen to boost the country's gargantuan task of balancing safe public health and economic recovery. It is through this cooperation and solidarity among different government agencies that will make the country "Recover as One".

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