

Good News

Department of Labor and Employment Bureau of Working Conditions

20 September



(Left) Swabbing booths inside the Enderun Colleges during the trial run on May 15, 2020 (Photo by Alliah Borrromeo)

(Right) Philippine Arena's Decontamination Area and Encoders' Tent (Photo by Michelle Cruz)

DOLE-BWC deploys volunteers to Mega Swabbing Centers

Extending support and assistance to the government effort in fighting coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department of Labor and Employment-Bureau of Working Conditions (DOLE-BWC) deployed volunteer employees to assist in the operations of Mega Swabbing Centers pursuant to the Republic Act No. 11469 or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act" on May 5, 2020.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) took part in the action by tapping volunteer employees from different offices among others, the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC). The BWC had deployed several Labor and Employment Officers (as encoders) to two of the four Mega Swabbing Centers in the country, the Philippine Arena in Bulacan and Enderun Colleges in Taguig City. These swabbing centers and quarantine facilities were constituted to increase and improve the country's COVID-19 testing capacity and for effective isolation of the patients.

The bureau started sending volunteers in the swabbing centers as early as May 11 to undergo necessary training as encoders. Despite the efforts of the government to ramp up the preparations for the immediate operation of these facilities, they were still met with challenges and difficulties.

“When we arrived, we found out that the facility itself was still not fully prepared to operate immediately. It took 10 days for the facility to be fully operational” stated by one of the volunteers in the Philippine Arena.

Additionally, other volunteers said, “Enderun Colleges was already fully equipped and ready to start but they lagged in the beginning and it took them days to keep pace with the operations of other Mega Swabbing Centers.”

But even with the encountered challenges, the volunteers still stated their appreciation on the task force manning the operations as they were assisted and accommodated while waiting for the start of their duty.

When interviewed regarding their experiences during their whole operation, most of them initially expressed worry and anxiety since they were entering in the battle with the pandemic. Furthermore, they also expressed enthusiasm and delight because of their contribution to the country despite their concern for their health.

The DOLE shall unceasingly provide the service and assistance needed by the Filipinos in the light of the pandemic and shall continuously join the battle against COVID-19.

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