

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
28 April 2021

DOLE provided transportation cooperatives with updates on policies issued during the COVID-19 pandemic

In order to provide transportation cooperatives with up-to-date information on labor laws during the pandemic, the Office of Transportation Cooperatives (OTC) hosted an informative online discussion with the theme "Online Koopihan" on 28 April 2021 via Google Meet.

As resource speakers, the said online discussion was attended by Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco of DOLE-Regional Operations, Labor Standards and Special Concerns Cluster and concurrent Director of the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) and Mr. Nicanor Bon, Chief of the DOLE BWC-Policy and Program Development Division.

ASec. Cucueco provided updates on occupational safety and health (OSH) and minimum public health standards at workplaces as issued by DOLE and jointly with other government agencies. She highlighted existing policies on the use of face masks and face shields, provision of shuttle services, installation of isolation rooms, COVID-19 testing and vaccination of workers, and disinfection of workplaces. ASec. Cucueco also emphasized the applicability of DOLE Department Order No. 224, Series of 2021 to the public transport industry which delineates the guidelines for proper ventilation in workplaces and public transportation. She concluded her discussion by reminding the transportation cooperatives to strictly adhere to the minimum public health standards and to avoid transporting symptomatic passengers.

Mr. Bon, on the other hand, discussed the updates relating to general labor standards such as the deferment and exemption on payment of holiday pay, rules governing last pay and certificate of employment, and payment of wages through transaction accounts. He also went on to explain the various types of flexible work arrangements which employers may adopt and consider as an alternative coping mechanism before retrenching their employees or ceasing their business operations. Finally, in resolving disagreements and differences, Mr. Bon encouraged employers and employees to work together in creating a win-win situation that benefits both parties.

In closing, public transportation commuters were reminded to actively observe and adhere to health protocols in place which prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.

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