

News Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE to Advance Workers' Rights in the Rural Sectors

Rural work plays a significant role in the country's economy. Generally speaking, rural economies are not given utmost attention in the country's labor standards. Moreover, available materials on labor standards are not tailored to the peculiarities of this sector.

To address this perceived problem on inequity, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), with the assistance of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United States Department of Labor (USDOL), is set to launch a program for this sector with a goal on improving working conditions for workers in the rural sectors on labor, OSH and gender equality.

The project will utilize two approaches - one is governance while the other is industry engagement. The DOLE shall also collaborate with other National Government Agencies and Social Partners throughout the duration of the project.

The project shall commence this year and will end in 2024 on selected regions. Capacity building and reforms in policies are central to the project.

The following are the activities for implementation:

1. Improvement on access to education and provision of better-quality education for women;
2. Vocational training/livelihoods promotion on agriculture, fishing and mining;
3. Promotion and strengthening of rural women's participation, as members and leaders, of project-related decision-making bodies and producer organizations;
4. Development, assistance and advisory services in the promotion of rural women's economic skills;
5. Promotion of women empowerment thru social dialogue;
6. Expounding of the coverage of the OSH law to cover vulnerable groups of individuals especially women in rural areas;
7. Capacity building to build the competencies of implementers and end user; and
8. Development of policies specific to the identified sectors.

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