

**Good News**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
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**DOLE banks on the construction sector to generate employment opportunities**

“The government has significant allocation for the Build, Build, Build program of the government in the proposed national budget for 2021 so we could expect more jobs in the construction towards the following year,” Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said. During the last quarter of 2020, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also observed that there was an increased demand for workers in the construction sector.

The construction sector is viewed as one of the country’s building blocks to economic recovery. With the funds allocated for the Build, Build, Build program, the projects thereto are expected to create employment opportunities and spur the demand for semi-skilled constructions workers across the country. “*Lahat* in full implementation so it would generate a lot of construction work and a lot of construction workers will be back to their employment status,” Bello said.

Despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Labor and Employment nonetheless received a total of 49,992 applications for Construction Safety and Health Program where 17,393 thereof pertains to the projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

With the government’s decision to refocus its flagship infrastructure program and loosen its quarantine restrictions upon the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program, these indicators are anticipated to trigger generation of more employment opportunities in the country across all industries.

In a survey conducted by the Philippine Constructors Association from October 16 – 25, 2020, the top (4) concerns of contractors pertain to government quarantine conditions, health protocols, manpower, and transportation. The survey also recorded that 85% of its respondent are optimistic on the opportunities 2021 may usher to the industry.

The public may rest assure that the DOLE will continue to render technical assistance in workplaces especially on occupational safety and health and prevention and control of COVID-19.

**-MASV & PAGDO-**