

News Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
26 October 2021



Labor Policy Response Amidst COVID-19

The National Economic and Development Authority Region VI, in collaboration with the Philippine Statistical Society Association, Inc. Region VI Chapter, conducted a webinar in support of the 32nd National Statistics Month on October 20, 2021. The webinar emphasizes the significance of evidence-based policy as a critical resource, particularly at this time, in ensuring that public funds are spent as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The webinar invited the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), represented by Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, to summarize the DOLE Thrust and Initiatives in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. ASec. Cucueco discussed the pandemic's issues, including health and safety concerns, business disruption, job security, mobility limitations, availability of services, and loss of employment. She noted that despite the difficulties, the government responds on how to promote the economy and employment, how to support businesses despite closures, how to safeguard workers at workplaces, and how to strengthen social dialogues.

ASec. Cucueco explained that the essential components of the guidelines issued are to increase workers' physical and mental resilience, reduce COVID-19 viral transmission, minimize contact rate, and reduce the risk of infection. She also stated that the Safety Seal Certification Program was implemented to assure compliance with minimal public health standards and to promote public confidence as the economy safely reopened.

By the end of the discussion, ASec. Cucueco stressed that the DOLE is working together with the industries to maintain and increase the employment of workers despite the pandemic's issues, and that the Department would continue to study policies that address workers' welfare, safety and health.

The webinar's full video may be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/Recharge-PH>.

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