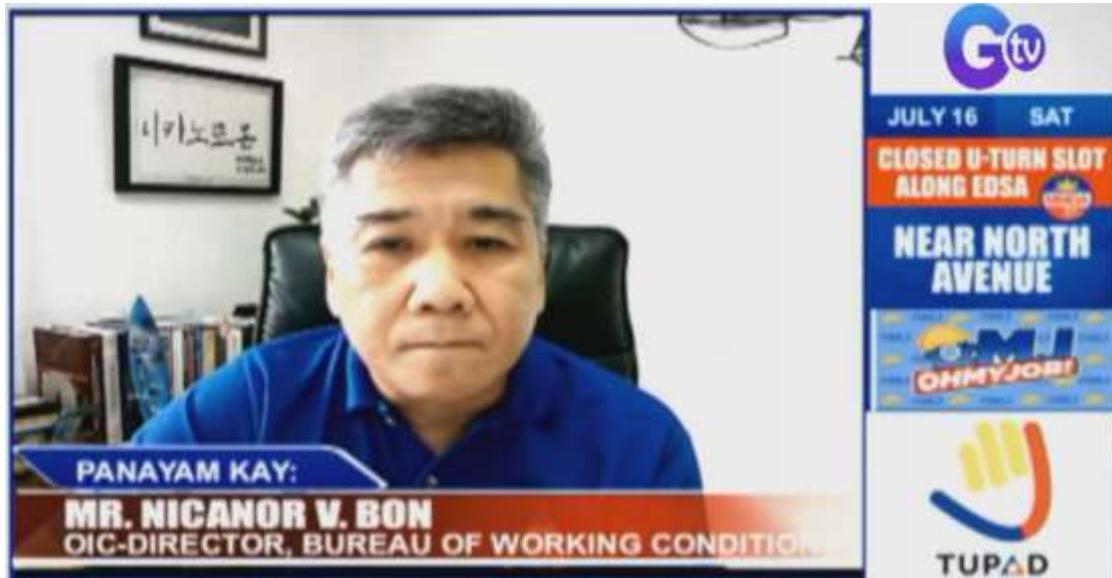


News Release

Department of Labor and Employment

Bureau of Working Conditions

20 July 2022



OIC-Director Nick Bon talks about safety measures on Oh My Job – Oh Isyu

Following the workplace accidents in Makati and Tagaytay, Oh My Job invited Bureau of Working Conditions OIC-Director Nicanor V. Bon to address the guidelines regarding Occupational Safety and Health.

On 16 July 2022, during the "Oh Isyu" part of OMJ hosted by Mr. Arnel Ignacio, Ms. Tuesday Niu, and Director Rolly Francia, OIC Bon was asked what will be the role of DOLE to ensure the protection and welfare of workers especially in the construction industry.

He responded that the DOLE's mandate is to ensure that the safety and health of the workers are protected. The Occupational Safety and Health is part of the Labor Standards implemented by the Department. For the construction industry, establishments are obliged to submit a Construction Safety and Health Program before the project begins. This program is covered by construction employees with safety and health trainings who will execute OSH standards on the site. He added that the Department focuses on preventing accidents through preventive programs such as trainings, the availability of disaster prevention programs, the implementation of engineering, administrative controls, and the proper use of personal protective equipment.

OIC Bon stressed the importance of DOLE Labor Inspectors in ensuring that workplaces comply with the rules and regulations set by government. They conduct inspections by visiting companies or high-risk establishments in compliance with Department Order No. 183-17, which includes various type of inspections such as Routine Inspection, Complaint Inspection, and Occupational Safety and Health Investigation.

In addition, he raised the "Bunkhouse Rule," which indicates that the "where the employee is required to stay in the premises or in quarters furnished by the employer, injuries sustained therein are in course of employment regardless of the time of the same; the same will be

covered under the employees' compensation program. The employer may be liable if it is found responsible or negligent for the incident such as those that took place in Tagaytay even if it occurred beyond working hours.

As a result of the fact that the number of Labor Inspectors employed at the DOLE is not sufficient to inspect all of the establishments in the country, OIC Bon mentioned that the companies need to comply voluntarily with the rules and regulations, particularly with regard to the OSH law.

OIC Bon ended his interview by expressing his greatest sympathies to the families of the workers who died in the accidents. He assured that the Department will do its best to prevent the recurrence of such accidents.

The interview may be replayed at <https://tinyurl.com/NVBonOMJ>.

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