

News Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE discusses Labor Inspection in Laging Handa Public Briefing



On August 19, 2022, BWC Director Atty. Alvin B. Curada was interviewed during the public briefing #LagingHandaPH, a program of PTV Philippines hosted by Mr. Aljo Bendijo that features government officials and hot-button issues that the nation's citizens should be aware of.

The interview focused on the status of the DOLE's ongoing labor inspections across the nation. In line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directives to ensure the protection of investors and workers' interests, Director Curada mentioned that DOLE continues the conduct of routine inspections of establishments, and compliance visits particularly if there have been complaints against certain businesses.

As of July 2022, the DOLE has inspected around 56,000 establishments. The most common violations on general labor standards that have been identified are: the failure of the businesses to pay for and remit SSS, Pag-IBIG, and PhilHealth contributions, underpayment of the minimum wage, overtime pay, and holiday pay.

On the other hand, most violations noted on occupational safety and health were on the required safety and health personnel such as first aiders, safety officers, and the absence of an OSH Program. Establishments are guided by DOLE labor inspectors towards compliance with said findings. DOLE also coordinates with accredited safety training organizations as to the availability of OSH trainings.

Director Curada also talked about how companies might be held accountable should they fail to comply within the correction period, and if their non-compliance with the labor rules is established. He also explained the due process accorded to establishments post-inspection.

On the shortage of labor inspectors vis-à-vis the high number of establishments, the host asked DOLE about the steps undertaken to ensure that most workplaces are

inspected despite this gap. Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority data, there are over one (1) million establishments nationwide. At present, the DOLE only has 1,210 labor inspectors, which number is insufficient to keep track of every establishment's compliance.

“This is why we're forming partnerships with the LGUs so that during business permit applications, we can advocate compliance. Additionally, we participate in tripartite industry councils to support them and share information about the compliance initiatives of their members. We also collaborate with PEZA and other organizations to develop sustainable compliance programs,” Director Curada responded.

He also updated that DOLE is currently reviewing Department Order No. 183-17 on the Labor Inspection framework, Department Order No. 198-18 on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Law, and Department Order No. 174-17 on contracting arrangement rules to improve the inspection system and make the policies effective and responsive on the emergent work and employment conditions for post-pandemic.

DOLE calls for support in its inspection program towards compliance with the general labor and occupational safety and health standards.

PTV Philippines public briefing #LagingHandaPH full video is available at <https://www.facebook.com/PTVph/videos/5513956475384672>

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