

Good News

Department of Labor and Employment

Bureau of Labor Relations

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DOLE, EU and ILO launched Project on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), ILO Country Office-Manila, and the EU Generalized System of Preferences Plus (EU GSP+) embarked on a on a two-year project which aims to further improve the capacity of labor, employers and the government towards better implementation and application of the right to Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining in the country.

The project was formally launched during a tripartite gathering on 13 September 2017, at the Bayleaf, Intramuros, Manila.

In his keynote message, then Acting Secretary Joel Maglunsod took off from the 2009 ILO High Level Mission where he said that the Philippine Government has dutifully instituted the necessary policy and program reforms geared towards inclusive labor justice system. "This year, the Philippines warmly welcomed the ILO Direct Contact Mission which aimed at building on the gains and dealing with the limitations of the 2009 ILO High Level Mission. As Undersecretary for Labor Relations, I was honored to receive the Mission, and lead the tripartite constituents to its successful conclusion", Maglunsod said.

The project launch generally aims at formulating a National Action Plan, based on the report and recommendation of the ILO Direct Contact Mission, focusing on three key result areas, namely: civil liberties and trade union rights, legislative issues, and climate conducive to freedom of association.

The project was welcomed by the labor and employers sector who attended the activity. Atty. Jose Sonny Matula of the Federation of Free Workers stressed the need to improve application of the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining in the country; saying that these principles are enshrined in the Constitution. Meanwhile, Mr. Danilo Edralin of SENTRO noted the importance of trade unions and the labor movement in the development of countries. Similarly, for the employers sector, Mr. Donald Dee of ECOP, voiced support for the move to strengthen freedom of association and collective bargaining. "We at ECOP recognizes that it is necessary to

cooperate and develop relationship with workers to maintain industrial peace”, said Dee. “ECOP continuously develop professional and ethical management practices and standards to promote harmonious relationship, including committing to ensure success of the tripartite consultation mechanism to effectively work together towards greater productivity and national progress” he added.

Aside from the labor and employer sector, key government agencies related to the practice of Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining were invited which includes the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Commission on Human Rights, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Department of Justice, the legislature and the judiciary.

END/ John Christopher Lapiz