

NTIPC to Confront Old and New Challenges in 2018

In time for the celebration of the 61st Founding Anniversary of the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC) convened a breakfast meeting on 16 January 2018 at The Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila. DOLE Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries joined the national TIPC members during the meeting.

Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod and BLR Director Benjo Santos M. Benavidez presided over the meeting where the NTIPC members discussed labor and employment issues they wanted to form part of the NTIPC agenda for this year.

First in the list is the persistent call of the labor sector for the end of endo, to which Undersecretary Maglunsod reiterated the commitment of the current administration to continue its campaign against endo through intensifying the inspection and assessment of establishments to determine whether they are compliant with labor laws and other rules and regulations. In fact, he mentioned that the Department is targeting to regularize 300,000 workers in 2018.

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza shared his concern amid issues on genuine tripartite representation. Both the labor and employer sectors found a common ground in pushing for an NTIPC resolution calling for the observance of genuine sectoral representation in filling-up vacant positions in various policy-making, decision-making, and advisory tripartite bodies.

Arising also from the discussion was a proposal by the labor sector for the Department to consider providing financial subsidy to minimum wage earners, who will be affected by possible price increase in basic commodities resulting from the implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Integration Law.

In spite of sentiments of both labor and employer sectors for the NTIPC to review its mandates in order to have a more effective and results-based tripartism, Undersecretary Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III and Assistant Secretaries Alex V. Avila, Maria Gloria A. Tango, Amuerfina R. Reyes, and Federico V. Abuan Jr. during the meeting

expressed their support to the NTIPC and stressed the importance of tripartism and social dialogue to achieve industrial peace that is based on social justice.

The NTIPC was established by virtue of Republic Act No. 10395, or the Tripartism Law, to serve as the main consultative body at the national level for tripartite advisement and consultation in the formulation, review, and implementation of labor, employment, and social policies.

END/Athena Villagonzalo