

Office of the Ombudsman Conducts ITAPS Seminar for BLR and Other DOLE Employees



In celebration of the 2018 National Women's Month with the theme "WE make change work for women", the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) in coordination with the National Integrity Center (NIC) of the Office of the Ombudsman organized a whole-day seminar on Integrity Transparency and Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS) on 23 March 2018 at the BLR Conference Room.

The seminar was conducted to provide BLR and other DOLE employees a deeper understanding on integrity, transparency and accountability in public service. Forty employees of DOLE coming from BLR, Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC), Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), Human Resource Development Service (HRDS), Information and Publication Service (IPS), Administrative Service (AS), Internal Audit Service (IAS), Legal Service (LS), Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), and National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) participated in the seminar.

The discussions and workshops during the activity, which was facilitated by three resource speakers from the NIC Office of the Ombudsman, focused on the ITAPS' central message "Zero tolerance to corruption".

During the morning session, Ms. Janice B. Barcelona discussed the module on Understanding Corruption. She highlighted the message that "Corruption kills, it victimizes all". Ms. Marie Isabel A. Gonzales tackled the module on Accountability of Public Officers. She mentioned the vital roles and accountability of women in public service and highlighted the message that "Public office is a public trust".

The afternoon session focused on the discussion on Penalizing Corruption which was extensively discussed by Atty. Karen S. Batu, Graft Investigation Officer of the Office of the Ombudsman. Atty. Batu discussed the crimes and offenses of public officers and employees which the Office of the Ombudsman may investigate and take cognizance with.

After the series of lectures and workshops, participants made an individual integrity assessment and formulated their respective integrity plans as the output of the seminar

A *BLR i-Commit to a Gender-Responsive Service Wall* where individual commitments to support a gender-responsive public service were posted was also created to highlight the celebration of the women's month.

Ms. Gonzales commended the Bureau of Labor Relations for being the first DOLE office to organize the ITAPS seminar. She expressed gratitude and appreciation to BLR for inviting the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct the seminar. ITAPS is a program of the Office of the Ombudsman which provide venue for a deeper understanding on the role of public servants and the accountability attached to the positions in the government.

END/MYRA FLOR M. AMPONG