

DOLE Conducts National Employers' Forum

Consistent with its mandate to provide stakeholders an avenue to participate in policy and decision-making processes, the Department of Labor and Employment, through the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), and in cooperation with International Labour Organization (ILO), conducted the Employers' Sectoral Consultation at the Peninsula Manila in Makati City on 27 May 2016.

The Employers' Sectoral Consultation sought to generate inputs and recommendations from employers on specific strategies that would help address issues that may affect the future of work in the Philippines in the areas of, among others, pay and productivity, incentive to work, taxation, wage determination, hiring and firing, and redundancy cost. The consultation took into consideration the consolidated results of the area-wide 2016 Labor and Employment Plan Consultations and the ILO's Future of Work Report. The output of the consultation serves as the employers' input to the Labor and Employment Plan 2016-2022, which shall be consistent with the 2030 UNDP Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals and ILO Future of Work Initiatives. The DOLE will endorse the LEP 2016-2022 as a sectoral plan contributing to the Philippine Development Plan 2016-2022.

"All our efforts should be focused on the achievement of Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals which is to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all", Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said.

Mr. Donald Dee, President of Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and Mr. Khalid Hassan, Director of International Labour Organization-CO Manila, graced the opening ceremony.

Mr. Hideki Kagohashi of ILO discussed the ILO Future of Work Centenary Initiative and Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Raquel Echague, OIC-Director of Investment Policy and Planning Service of the Bureau of Investments, lectured on the Comprehensive National Industrial Strategy. Ms. Emmarita Mijares, Deputy Executive

Director of Export Development Council, tackled the Philippine Export Development Plan and Industry Roadmap.

Mr. John Forbes, Chief of Party of the Arangkada Philippines Project, and Mr. Henry Schumacker, Vice President of European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, talked about the Arangkada Recommendations on the Seven Big Winner sectors.

Approximately 180 representatives from different industries participated in the consultation. Participants come from the following sectors: Agribusiness, Mining, Construction, Ownership, Dwellings and Real Estate, Manufacturing and Wholesale and Retail Trade, Infrastructure, Transport and Logistics, Banking and Finance, Health, Tourism, Travel & Retirement, and IT-BPO and Cyberservices.

“We should support and secure the future of industries/sectors which are potentially generators of employment,” Secretary Baldoz said. She emphasized that opportunities can be seized and employment challenges can be hurdled through the comprehensive national industrial policy, bolder trade policy, intense investment promotion, skills training and human resource development, innovation and R&D, and modern SME policy.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez