

BLR Holds First Quarter Mediator-Arbiters' En Banc Meeting for 2018

Mediator-Arbiters from the Bureau of Labor Relations and DOLE Regional Offices convened the First Quarter Mediator-Arbiters' En Banc Meeting for 2018 on 13 February 2018 at the Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The en banc meeting focused on issues and concerns on petition for certification election, audit of union and other related inter and intra-union issues. It served as a venue for mediator-arbiters to discuss latest issuances and policy directives on labor and employment and discuss issues and problems in the implementation of labor relations provisions of the Labor Code, particularly D.O. 40-03, as amended.

Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod welcomed the Mediator-Arbiters to the meeting and reminded them of the importance of efficiency in the performance of their duties. He reiterated his support in the proposed upgrading of the salary of mediator-arbiters.

Director Benjo Santos M. Benavidez discussed the agreements and directives made during the DOLE corporate planning exercises particularly on the enforcement and disposition of cases.

“The Mediator-Arbiters of the Regional Offices of the DOLE and of the BLR play a crucial role in industrial peace and promotion of the right of the workers to self-organization through speedy and simplified resolutions of certification election cases and inter and intra-union disputes. Thus, it is incumbent upon them to be consistent and coherent in their approach in resolving issues through a consultative meeting,” Director Benavidez said in his message.

He emphasized that Mediator-Arbiters also act as legal officers of the DOLE Regional Offices.

Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod said that the roles and responsibilities of the mediator-arbiters at the Department are essential, if not indispensable, in carrying out the mandate of the DOLE in enforcing the Labor Code of the Philippines, more particularly in upholding the policies in employment relations.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez