

BLR Holds 2017 Annual Mediator-Arbiters' National Consultation



Twenty three (23) DOLE Mediator-Arbiters from DOLE Regional Offices attended the 17th Annual Mediator-Arbiters' National Consultation on 13-17 November 2017 at the Hotel Del Rio in Iloilo City.

This year's national consultation focused on the pressing issues and concerns on Department Order No. 40-I-15, on certification election and Department Order No. 174, Series of 2017, on contracting and subcontracting. It served as an avenue for the mediator-arbiters to gain and sharpen their knowledge and skills and further explore good practices in handling complex labor disputes.

The activity provided mediator-arbiters with the opportunity to discuss policy gaps in labor and employment laws. It aimed to achieve uniform and correct application of labor laws and served as the levelling ground to understand the procedure of handling labor standards cases and violations of the right to security of tenure.

Regional Director Johnson G. Cañete welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude for choosing DOLE Region VI as the venue of this year's consultation.

Atty. Ma. Consuelo S. Bacay discussed the Modes in Determining Bargaining Agent while Atty. Abigail Dela Rosa talked about Intra and Inter-union Disputes.

Atty. Alvin B. Curada presented the new Department Order No. 183-17, otherwise known as the Revised Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Laws Pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code, while Atty. Ramon Saura III lectured on Department Order No. 174-17, otherwise known as the Rules Implementing Articles 106 to 109 of the Labor Code, As Amended.

“The annual national consultation is a strategy to interface between the DOLE Central Office and the Regional Office with respect to policy and operation as well as discuss some nuances on labor relations and to some extent on matters of labor standards”, BLR Director Benjo Santos M. Benavidez said in his message.

He emphasized that mediator-arbiters not only act as mediator-arbiters but also as legal officers of the DOLE Regional Offices.

Assistant Secretary Gloria A. Tango 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/Honey Glaze