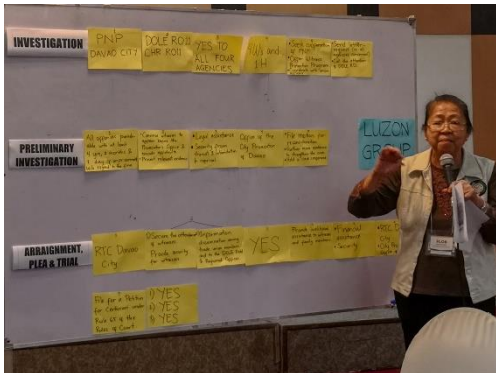


RTMBs and NTIPC-MB Capacitated to Ensure Exercise of FOA and CB



DOLE 11 Regional Director Raymundo Agravante described as “very timely” the recently conducted capacity building aimed at improving sectoral participation in build-up and documentation of alleged labor-related cases of extrajudicial killing, harassment, and abduction. The two-day activity, held on 8-9 March at The Ritz Hotel in Davao City, was participated by members and focal persons of national and regional tripartite monitoring bodies (NTIPC-MB and RTMBs) in NCR, CARAGA, and Regions 4A, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 12. Joining them also are representatives of ARMM and CHR from the said regions.

DOLE Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod mentioned that despite the institutionalization of necessary monitoring mechanisms, such as the NTIPC-MB, the RTMBs, the Inter-agency Committee pursuant to Administrative Order No. 35 (IAC), and the National Monitoring Mechanism (NMM) under the CHR, the challenge is to “strengthen the coordination between and among these independent bodies”. He adds that many observes slow or lack of progress in resolving extra-judicial killing, harassment, or abduction cases.



Ms. Florencia Cabatingan described this “historic” activity as a catalyst to enable them to perform “what they are expected to do” as members of tripartite monitoring bodies. Mr. Robert Maronilla even jested that the members could become investigators themselves given the comprehensive discussion of the rules on criminal procedures and the investigation processes of the NBI and PNP. Ms. Cabatingan and Mr. Maronilla are representatives of the NTIPC-MB.

In his way forward, BLR Dir. Benjo Santos M. Benavidez highlighted the importance of the activity in aiding the members in doing their jobs in tripartite monitoring bodies. While the main function of these bodies is not to gather evidence, he pointed out that “what members can do is to facilitate the gathering or preserving of evidence”. He adds, “The function of NTIPC-MB and RTMBs does not end in monitoring, but these bodies should be instrumental in successful prosecution of cases and even the arrest of the accused”.

“At the end of the day, the goal is to provide the workers an enabling environment for workers to exercise their right to freedom of association”, he emphasized.

Some of the recommendations brought up during the two workshops were to provide financial or livelihood assistance to the family of the victim, and to strengthen coordination especially between the tripartite monitoring bodies and the concerned government agencies especially at the regional level. A manual of operations and e-learning modules for members of tripartite monitoring bodies are to be initiated by the Department in cooperation with the ILO.



The capacity building is in line with the two-year Development Cooperation Project of the BLR, ILO Country Office in Manila, and European Union Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (EU GSP+), in consideration of the recommendations of the 2016 ILO Direct Contact Mission.

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