

## BLR Conducts 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediator-Arbiters' National Consultation



Thirty (30) Mediator-Arbiters from the DOLE Regional Offices and the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) attended the 18th Annual Mediator-Arbiters' National Consultation on 16-20 July 2018 at the Limketkai Luxe Hotel in Cagayan De Oro City.

The national consultation focused on the discussions of the pressing issues and concerns on contractualization, security of tenure and regularization in relation to certification election and the right to self-organization. It also focused on issues on cancellation of union registration, procedure on handling labor standard cases and the draft sheriff's manual.

The annual consultation serves as a forum for the Mediator-Arbiters to gain and sharpen their knowledge and skills on labor laws, rules and regulations. It also aimed at achieving uniform and correct application of labor laws to all labor disputes and other labor-related issues and concerns.

Regional Director Joffrey M. Suyao of DOLE Regional Office X welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude for choosing Cagayan De Oro City as the venue of this year's annual consultation. RD Suyao, a former Mediator-Arbiters, hoped that resolutions and agreements that can be useful in handling labor disputes and other labor-related issues can be developed after the consultation.

OIC-Assistant Secretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez provided policy directives on regularization, security of tenure and labor-only contracting cases. He likewise discussed some of the issues and concerns on certification election cases and inter-intra-union disputes.

Atty. Andrea Beatrice Melosantos of the DOLE Legal Service and Mr. Nicanor V. Bon of the Bureau of Working Conditions discussed the salient features of the draft Sheriffs' Manual on Execution of Judgment. Aside from the Mediator-Arbiters, DOLE RO X Labor Inspectors and Sheriffs as well the deputized social representatives also participated in the discussion.

Atty. Abigail Dela Rosa also gave a brief presentation on the standards and principles of Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining. Atty. Alvin Curada also tackled strategies and guide questions in determining the existence of labor-only contracting.

In his opening remarks, Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod acknowledged the loyalty, obedience, industriousness, love of country, selflessness, and other personal values of the Mediator-Arbiters.

“Mahalaga ang inyong kontribusyon sa pagpapanatili ng matiwasay na industrial relations. Ang inyong mga desisyon sa mga certification election cases at inter/intra-union disputes, at iyong kakayahan na mag conciliate-mediate sa mga “conflicts” ay mahalaga upang ang tiwala sa “unionism” bil ang pinaka-epektibong mekanismo ng “social justice” , bagamat may “nuisances” or masalimuot, ay mapalaganap sa ikakabuti ng mga manggagawa. Sa makro-level, ang inyong kontribusyong ito ay masasabing mahalagang bahagi ng labor market economics sa ikalalakas ng mga industriya sa ating bansa.” Usec. Joel Maglunsod said.

**END/Honey Glaze M. Alipio**