

BLR Conducts Seminar-Consultation on TRABAHO Bill



Even while the Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-quality Opportunities (TRABAHO) Bill is pending in Philippine Congress, both labor and employer sectors have expressed their concern that, when enacted into law, the said bill would have extensive consequences on business operations and employment. TRABAHO Bill is the second package of the comprehensive tax reform program (CTRP) of Duterte administration.

Hence, the Bureau of Labor Relations, upon the recommendation of the Clothing and Textile Industry Tripartite Council, organized a seminar-consultation on TRABAHO Bill last 19 October 2018 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) in Diliman, Quezon City. Around 100 sectoral representatives from existing industry tripartite councils and the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council participated in the event.

Director Arnelyn May A. Abdon of the Strategy, Economics, and Results Group of the Department of Finance (DOF) addressed the crowd in Filipino, *“Every change is difficult. If it is easy, that is no real change or reform”*.

Dir. Abdon debunked as myth those concerns that TRABAHO Bill will drive investors away and subsequently result to massive job losses. She explained that the goal of TRABAHO Bill is to lower corporate income tax rate, provide performance-based incentives, and to remove unnecessary incentives. In fact, TRABAHO Bill seeks to reorient tax incentives toward the strategic growth of industries, thereby allowing the public to maximize the benefits from the incentives provided to corporates.

Further, she echoed the stand of DOF that the nine-year high inflation cannot be blamed solely on the implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law. She explained that TRAIN contributed around 0.4 to 0.7 percentage points out of the 6.7 percent inflation in September. Other factors that impacted on high inflation are higher world oil prices and depreciation of peso for the previous months.

At the end of the day, she rallied both labor and employer representatives to join the government and be its partners for change.

End/Athena Villagonzalo