

NTIPC holds first meeting for 2019, sets way forward on SOT, OSH and Telecommuting Act



Taking up its mantle as the primary policy and decision-making body for tripartite advisement and consultation on labor and employment concerns, the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC) promptly convened in its first plenary meeting for the year on 16 January 2019 at The Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros.

“This special meeting is called in order to solicit recommendations from the sectors in line with the Department’s corporate planning for 2019,” explained OIC Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez, NTIPC Vice-Chair and Head Secretariat, as he called the meeting to order after declaring a quorum.

Security of tenure (SOT) was the first issue for discussion in the plenary meeting, with OIC Usec. Benavidez raising the question of whether or not the body should commence crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order (EO) No. 51. Signed by the President during the Labor Day celebration in 2018, EO 51 reiterates prohibition to labor-only contracting.

In a consensus, the labor and management representatives agreed to hold in abeyance the formulation of the IRR until the enactment of the SOT Bill, in view of other matters which the NTIPC can discuss such as the SAVE (Special Assessments or Visits of Establishments) cases pending before the Office of the Secretary.

On a similar note, the draft IRR of the recently enacted Telecommuting Law will be presented to the Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC) in its meeting next month, according to OIC Usec. Benavidez.

Concerning the IRR of the Occupational Safety and Health Law, OIC Usec. Benavidez said that regional learning sessions will be organized by the Department to improve the awareness of both labor and employer sectors on said law.

Relative to the pending reconstitution of the NTIPC members, the body moved for the issuance of a resolution calling on the Office of the President to strictly observe the nomination and appointment procedures set forth by law and to ensure that only those endorsed by legitimate labor and employer organizations be appointed.

Capping the meeting was the presentation of the recalibrated DOLE Labor and Employment Education Services (LEES) which include the materials and modules on pre-employment, during employment, and post-employment matters that may be used by the labor and employer groups in their respective programs.