

BLR, ILS Kick Off Area-Wide Consultation on Strengthening Multi-Employer Bargaining



The Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) and the Institute for Labor Studies (ILS) in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) kicked off the first leg of area-wide consultations on Strengthening Multi-Employer Bargaining Towards a More Inclusive Form of CBA Coverage on 15 January 2019 at the Harolds Hotel in Cebu City.

The consultation was part of the BLR-ILS research project on multi-employer bargaining which seeks to explore its applicability in the context of emerging forms of work arrangements and to study the issues and challenges on the right to self-organization in the context of multi-employer bargaining in the Philippines. The initial results of the research and the proposed framework on multi-employer bargaining were presented during the activity. Inputs on the proposed framework and recommendations to strengthen policies on multi-employer bargaining were solicited from the participants.

Specific inputs were solicited on the following areas: (1) factors hindering higher collective bargaining coverage; (2) policy areas for improvement; (3) role of tripartite bodies and mechanisms in multi-employer bargaining.

OIC-Assistant Regional Director Roy Buenafe of DOLE Region VII welcomed the participants and thanked the organizers for choosing Cebu City as the venue for the Visayas-Wide Consultation.

Undersecretary Jacinto V. Paras of the DOLE Human Capital Development, Overseas Employment Administration and Policy Support Cluster graced the consultation and delivered his message of support.

“This activity will serve as a venue for exploring how multi-employer bargaining can benefit both the labor and employer sectors”, said Undersecretary Paras. He said that multi-employer bargaining can be “a tool to regulate working conditions and practices in accordance with the peculiarities of your industries. While the Department believes that policy researches are key in formulating responsive policies, we deem that these must be complemented with constructive dialogue and consultative undertakings as perspectives from stakeholders can enrich policy discussion.”

Resource persons include BLR’s Atty. Ma. Consuela Bacay who discussed the concept and policies on multi-employer bargaining in the Philippines. Ms. Diane Lynn Respall of the International Labour Organization presented the international perspectives on and trends in multi-employer bargaining. Ms. Joyce Anne Lumactud of the Institute for Labor Studies shared the framework for strengthening multi-employer bargaining in the Philippines.

Participants were composed of members of Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Councils and representatives from DOLE Regional Offices V, VI, VII, and VIII.

ILS Executive Director Ahmma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba in her closing remarks said that the ILS and BLR embarked on the area-wide consultation “to have a comprehensive scope of the study and to solicit inputs from stakeholders from different

regions.”

The Mindanao and Luzon-wide consultations will be held on 25 January 2019 and 04 February 2019, respectively. The area-wide consultation coincided with the celebration of the 62nd Founding Anniversary of BLR on 16 January 2019.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez