

DOLE Conducts Consultation with Public Utility Bus Transport Industry



More than one hundred (100) workers' and employers' representatives from the public utility bus transport industry attended the consultation meeting on the enforcement and implementation of DOLE Department Order No. 118-12 or the Rules and Regulations Governing the Employment and Working Conditions of Drivers and Conductors in the Public Utility Bus Transport Industry.

Department of Labor and Employment, through the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), organized the consultation on 14 March 2019 at the DOLE Labor Governance Learning Center in Intramuros, Manila.

Secretary Silvestre Bello III graced the consultation meeting and thanked the workers' and employers' representatives for participating in the activity. He encouraged them to raise issues and concerns and ask questions with regard to the implementation of the issuance.

Undersecretary Ciriaco Lagunzad III presided the consultation meeting and explained that it was convened to discuss issues arising from the implementation of the issuance and related concerns, particularly on the compensation scheme for bus drivers and conductors.

Mr. Nick Bon of the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) presented the salient features of Department Order No. 118-12 and explained that labor standards and related laws and regulations are applicable to the public utility bus transport industry.

Executive Director Criselda Sy of the National Wages Productivity Commission (NWPC) presented the provisions of the “Revised Operational Guidelines on the Adoption of Part fixed, Part performance-Based Compensation Scheme in the Public Transport Industry”. She said that in implementing the guidelines “there should be an agreement between the operator and the drivers/conductors on the fixed wage for drivers or conductors which should not be lower than the minimum wage”.

Undersecretary Lagunzad said that the concept of the performance-based scheme in the guidelines is the same as the incentives given to the drivers or conductors with good performance. “DOLE and Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPPBs) shall provide technical assistance to bus owners and/or operators to align their compensation scheme with the provisions of Department Order No. 118-12”, said Undersecretary Lagunzad.

Assistant Secretary Benjo Santos Benavidez facilitated the open forum, emphasizing that both workers and employers are protected by laws.

In her closing remarks, Undersecretary Ana Dione emphasized the importance of consultation in addressing labor issues and concerns. She encouraged the bus operators, drivers and conductors to ask assistance from the DOLE Regional Offices in the implementation of the guidelines, particularly with respect to compensation scheme.

Representatives from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) also attended the consultation meeting. DOLE and LTFRB will set a meeting to synchronize the driving and working hours of drivers of public utility bus.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez