

BLR, ILS Conclude 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) concluded the area-wide consultations on Strengthening Multi-Employer Bargaining Towards a More Inclusive Form of CBA Coverage on 04 February 2019 at the AG New World Hotel in Malate, Manila.

OIC-Undersecretary Benjo Santos Benavidez of the DOLE Labor Relations, Special Concerns and Regional Operations Cluster graced the consultation and delivered his message of support.

“Collective bargaining can be a powerful instrument to establish decent terms and conditions of work and achieve harmony between workers and employers”, said OIC-Undersecretary Benavidez. He said that the concept of multi-employer bargaining is not new and that it is another form of negotiation where a group of labor unions choose to bargain collectively with a group of employers that would entail a wider employee coverage.

“This activity is one avenue for exploring how multi-employer bargaining can benefit both the labor and employer sectors. It 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”, OIC-Undersecretary Benavidez added.

Assistant Regional Director Sixto Rodriguez Jr. of DOLE National Capital Region welcomed the participants which included members of the Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) and DOLE representatives from NCR, Regions I, II, III, IVA and IVB.

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 and Mr. Arun Kumar of the International Labour Organization presented the different perspectives and trends in multi-employer bargaining. Ms. Joyce Anne Lumactud of the Institute for Labor Studies shared the preliminary results of the area-wide consultation on multi-employer bargaining.

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 Visayas and Mindanao-wide consultations were held on 15 January 2019 and 25 January 2019, respectively.

The consultations were part of the BLR-ILS research project on multi-employer bargaining which seeks to propose a more centralized form of collective bargaining by developing a framework to strengthen the existing policy of multi-employer bargaining in the country.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez