

DOLE AND BSP ORGANIZE FINANCIAL FORUM FOR THE LABOR SECTOR

The Department of Labor and Employment and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) held Financial Inclusion Forum for the Labor Sector on 18 November 2019 at the BSP Complex Hall in Manila. Attended by more than 150 sectoral participants from different non-government organizations and tripartite councils, as well as government representatives, the Forum sought to promote awareness on financial inclusion, digital payments, and other developments in the financial services.

The 2017 Global Findex Report reveals that only 6.6% of the country's private sector wage earners are receiving through a formal account. In his welcome remarks, Labor Undersecretary Claro A. Arellano referred to this figure as evidence that cash disbursement is the prevailing mode of payment of wages, making it difficult to verify and validate the payment of correct of wages and other mandatory benefits.

He mentioned, *"The reason we have this learning session is so that, even without a law or a regulation for this purpose, the employees and the employers alike will do away with the manual and cash payment, and will take the initiative, on their own, to open formal accounts for payment of wages."*

With the ultimate goal of promoting payment of wages through formal accounts which include e-money accounts, the Forum featured speakers from GCash, Paymaya, Cebuana Lhuillier Rural Bank, and Union Bank who shared their respective services that are suiting to the needs of all workers both in the formal and informal sectors.

The Forum was the first project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas with the Department of Labor and Employment after the latter recently joined the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee (FISC). It reflects the Department's commitment to contribute to the achievement of financial inclusion, but is also a part of its efforts to effectively enforce and monitor the implementation of existing labor laws and regulations especially with regard to wages and salaries.

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