

TEC and ITCs Reconstituted, Took Oath as BLR Celebrates its 63rd Founding Anniversary



In celebration of the 63rd Founding Anniversary of the Bureau of Labor Relations this month, Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III administered the oath of office of more than 160 labor and employer representatives took their oath as regular and alternate members of the Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC), the Automotive Assembly Industry Tripartite Council (ITC), the Construction ITC, the Clothing and Textile ITC, and the Private Security ITC. The Secretary was assisted by Undersecretary Claro A. Arellano, Undersecretary Ana C. Dione, OIC-Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon, Assistant Secretary Federico V. Abuan Jr., and OIC-Assistant Secretary Dominique R. Tutay.

Assistant Secretary Abuan delivered the welcome remarks where he emphasized the Department's steadfast commitment to promote and observe Tripartism in its decision- and policy-making processes with the Bureau of Labor Relations at the forefront. While he commended the accomplishments of the tripartite bodies, he expressed hope that the appointment of the sectoral representatives "will translate into more inclusive and more relevant tripartite bodies towards policies that are more responsive to the needs of your respective industry in this ever-changing world of work".

Ms. Florencia Cabatingan, a regular member representing the labor sector in the TEC, and Atty. Ranulfo Payos, a regular member representing the employer sector in the TEC, gave message of support on behalf of their respective sectors. Both narrated how the tripartite councils were first conceptualized and how, through the years, these became the model of Tripartism that other countries esteem. This, according to BLR OIC-Director Maria Consuelo S. Bacay, serves as a challenge to the sectoral representatives to work together to achieve the tasks of these tripartite bodies.

Through the years, these tripartite bodies have greatly contributed to the preservation of industrial peace in the country. For this administration alone, more than twenty-five

(25) issuances have undergone tripartite review and deliberation. In the Clothing and Textile industry, the Clothing and Textile ITC had the key role in pushing for an accreditation mechanism of garments exporters availing of the preferential tariff under the EU-GSP Plus. Last year, the Automotive Assembly and the Construction have been proactive in holding orientations on new laws and issuances as well as free occupational safety and health trainings for their affiliates. Before the end of the 2019, the Private Security ITC made possible the issuance of Labor Advisory No. 15, s. 2019 that clarify some provisions of DOLE Department Order No. 150, s. 2016 in order to ensure compliance with mandatory employment benefits for security guards and other private security personnel.

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