

Industry-specific concerns of the manufacturing industry discussed in the 3rd DOLE Kamustahan Series

Members of the Manufacturing Industry Tripartite Council (ITC), Automotive Assembly Industry Tripartite Council (AAITC) and Clothing and Textile Industry Tripartite Council (CTITC) and other representatives from the manufacturing industry attended the 3rd *Kamustahan Series* conducted by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), through the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) and DOLE-National Capital Region (NCR) last 07 October 2020, via zoom cloud.

Undersecretary Joji Aragon, together with Assistant Secretary Dominique R. Tutay and Assistant Secretary Maria Teresita S. Cucuenco spearheaded the consultation. Usec. Aragon explained that the *Kamustahan series* seeks to gather the industry-specific concerns amid the pandemic and discuss how to further collaborate for possible assistance or intervention.

To date, the manufacturing sector has recorded 4,638 establishments affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which involves 390,692 workers nationwide. Eighty percent (80%) of these establishments are temporarily closed while the remaining twenty (20%) are on flexible arrangements.

Most of the industry concerns raised and discussed during the consultation were about COVID-19 protocols (re-swabbing test, quarantine period), assistance from the government to affected workers and working arrangements during the pandemic.

On the COVID-19 concerns and protocols, the manufacturing sector shared that there are Local Government Units (LGUs) requiring a re-swabbing test after the 14-day quarantine before they issue a certificate of completion of quarantine. Reportedly, some companies also fail to comply with the government policies on COVID-19 which include providing basic personal protective equipment (PPE) for their employees. Participants were advised to report the non-compliant companies for inspection and monitoring of the DOLE. For guidance on the testing and quarantine rules in the workplace, the participants were likewise advised to refer to the DOH Memorandum Circular 0258-A and the DOLE-DTI JMC 20-04-A.

As regards the government assistance to affected workers, Assistant Secretary Dominique R. Tutay reported that a total of 1,623 establishments covering 93,869 workers received financial assistance under CAMP 1. She informed that CAMP implementation will continue under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (BAYANIHAN 2 Act). Affected establishments are advised to submit updated Establishment Reports and supporting documents through the DOLE's online portal once the CAMP Bayanihan 2 Guidelines is in effect.

On the working arrangement during the pandemic i.e. forced to leave, the manufacturing industry was informed of the DOLE's issuance of Labor Advisory No. 17-B, Series of 2020, which provides guidelines on the alternative work-arrangements or schemes.

The *Kamustahan series* is an online consultation with select industries to discuss industry-specific concerns given the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore areas of collaboration to address the same. The last *Kamustahan series* will be with the construction industry and scheduled on the first week of November.

(For more information and updates, please follow us at <https://blr.dole.gov.ph/> and <https://www.facebook.com/BureauofLaborRelationsPH/>).

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