

BLR GIVES SMART DEVICE FOR ITS NTIPC AND TEC MEMBERS

The COVID-19 pandemic took the world by surprise, almost halting and disrupting life in the 21st century – but no pandemic could have stopped the spirit of social dialogue and tripartism in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). And with the absence of readily available vaccines or medicine for COVID-19, social distancing, limited physical contacts as well as virtual meetings, consultations, and webinars has become the new standards under the “new normal” at work for an indefinite period.

The Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), as the secretariat of the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC) and the Technical Executive Committee (TEC), secured a means to achieve its goal to sustain the operationalization of tripartite bodies lodged with the Department under the “new normal”.

The BLR provides the sectoral representatives with the necessary communication device and subscription to ensure that all the members of the NTIPC and TEC can continuously participate in a safe and innovative mode of tripartite and/or sectoral consultations and activities. The Bureau recognized the vital role of the stakeholders – the labor and employer – in the Department’s policy and decision-making process, especially in these trying times that several issues and concerns on labor and employment arise.

The NTIPC and TEC regular members shall be granted a smart tablet with an unlimited data subscription to be used solely for tripartite consultations and activities. The smart tablet also comes with pre-installed applications such as *Zoom*, *DocuSign* and *WhatsApp* that will be used in their engagement to the Department as a member of the NTIPC and/or TEC. The members may use the postpaid line for their internet needs, specifically when participating in tripartite and/or sectoral consultations and activities which are now mostly done online.

With this effort and initiative, the Bureau is optimistic that the spirit of social dialogue and tripartism is upheld amidst the restrictions and safety measures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NTIPC serves as the main consultative and advisory body for tripartite advisement and consultation among the labor, employer, and government sectors in the formulation, review, and implantation of labor, employment, and social policies at the national level. The TEC, on the other hand, is the technical workhorse of the NTIPC that pre-processes policies, issues, and concerns and submits recommendations for approval of the NTIPC.