

DOLE, DOH conducts series of town hall sessions on COVID-19 vaccine deployment

“Right information is the key in ultimately defeating this pandemic.” This is the message emphasized by Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III during the town hall sessions on COVID-19 vaccine deployment, jointly organized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Health (DOH). According to him, the right information from no less than experts in the medical field shall be our shield against numerous ideas and speculations surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines, and our guide in making informed decisions.

On 12, 25, and 26 March 2021, DOLE and DOH conducted series of town hall sessions participated and joined by the members of the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC), Technical Executive Committee (TEC), members of the Automotive, Construction, Clothing, and Textile and the Private Security industry tripartite councils, Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Councils, local Tripartite Industrial Peace Councils, and other employer and labor representatives from the different regions.

After the series of presentations from the panel of speakers on the review of vaccines, evidence and summary of the vaccines available, its selection and approval process, trial, and the vaccine deployment plan, Dr. Ana Ong-Lim of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, Inc. facilitated the open forum to accommodate and address the questions and concerns of the participants on the vaccines and their deployment.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said that that the arrival of vaccines in the country signals a new phase of our struggle and new hope in our fight to end the pandemic. “Lahat ng Lingkod Bayani ng DOH at buong vaccine cluster ay nanawagan sa lahat ng nandito ngayon na maging kampanyon para sating mga bakuna,” he urged.

“Nakasalalay ang tagumpay ng ating bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ang tiwala ng ating mamamayan halaga ng bakuna bilang instrumento ng pagpapanatili ng magandang antas pampublikong kalusugan”, he added.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the conduct of the town hall session as this allowed them to raised their concerns on the vaccines against COVID-19 is currently rolled out. “Thank you to all government agencies for giving the vaccination awareness to the public”, one of the participants said. As the session is very informative, straightforward, and organized, the participants thanked the experts who shed light on the topic.

The majority of the participants are highly like to get vaccinated as shown in the result of the town hall sessions’ entry and exit poll.

The town hall sessions aimed to raise vaccine confidence by teaching factual knowledge on the process of vaccine selection and approval, vaccine reliability based on experts’ studies, as well as the inclusive vaccination deployment plan of the government. It also aimed to multiply COVID-19 vaccine champions by providing the different sectors timely information about the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan.

END/Honey Glaze M. Alipio