



## **BLR HOLDS 1<sup>ST</sup> MEDIATOR-ARBITERS' EN BANC MEETING FOR 2021**

Mediator-arbiters – from the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) regional offices – convened for their 1st Quarter *En Banc* meeting last 31 March 2021, via Zoom videoconference.

BLR Director Maria Consuelo S. Bacay, in her welcome remarks, said that based on the number of questions/issues inquired by the Mediator-Arbiters, issued Orders and newly-appointed Mediator-Arbiters, the Bureau deemed it proper to hold a re-orientation of the basic principles on certification election, intra- and inter-union disputes, and public sector unionism.

Atty. Abigail R. Dela Rosa, BLR Mediator-Arbiters, discussed the Principles and Resolutions in Certification Election. Questions in relation to the subject matter were answered by the participants through polls in the course of the presentation.

Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez of the Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support Cluster answered some legal and policy queries raised by Mediator-Arbiters.

Former BLR and Legal Service Director Atty. Romeo M. Montefalco, Jr. presented the matter on Intra Union Dispute – Audit, Local Election, Cancellation of Union Registration, Deregistration, and Cancellation of SEBA. Questions from the participants were also entertained and answered by the speaker.

Due to the half-day work declaration by the Department in the observance of the Holy Week, the body agreed to defer the lecture on Executive Order (EO) No. 180, Right to Organize of Government Employees and Policies on Public Sector Unionism in the next *en banc* meeting.

The said meeting also became an occasion to discuss union matters of the mediator-arbiters.

**END/Diane Virtucio**