

## **BLR Conducts Re-Orientation on the Registration of Workers Association in the DOLE-Regional Office No. 5**

A surge in the number of registration of OFW associations was observed in the DOLE-Regional Office No. 5 (DOLE-RO5) following the establishment of the Tulong Pangkabuhayan para sa Pag-unlad ng Samahang OFWs (Tulong PUSO) program of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Furthermore, pursuant to the Memorandum issued by Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III on 27 October 2020, “Green Lanes” shall be established to express the registration of OFW groups or associations availing the said program. To equip its registration focal persons and processors, the DOLE-Regional Office No. 5 (DOLE-RO5) invited the BLR to conduct a Re-Orientation on the Registration of Workers Association for Labor Relations Focals on 24 June 2021 via Zoom.

Ms. Marivic T. Villa, Chief of the Union Registration and Workers Empowerment Division of the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), discussed the features of the Tulong PUSO program as provided in the OWWA Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) in relation to the Registration Program of DOLE. Ms. Villa emphasized the need for OFW groups to register with the DOLE to avail the program. This resulted to the observed increase in the applications for registration as workers’ association received by the DOLE-RO5.

To guide the processing of the applications, Ms. Villa presented the legal bases and latest issuances regarding the registration of workers association. Specifically, she discussed the qualifications, requirements, implications and reportorial obligations of registered workers associations.

Towards the end of the program, the registration processors were expected to be more capable to expeditiously and efficiently process applications for registration of OFW groups, helping them avail the benefits of and services under the Tulong PUSO program.

**END/Katrina S. del Rosario**