

BLR Jointly Convenes the ITCs in a Virtual Session to Discuss Government Plans towards Recovery from the Pandemic

Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) Director Maria Consuelo S. Bacay emphasized the whole-of-society approach in addressing the impact of COVID-19 during her welcome remarks for the virtual joint assembly of the Industry Tripartite Council (ITC) in the Automotive Assembly, Construction, Clothing and Textile, Private Security, and Education sector on 6 July 2021. The virtual meeting was the first time that the five (5) ITCs lodged with BLR have gathered together to discuss employment and market recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I hope that this session will serve as an avenue to discuss possible areas of cooperation and collaboration with the labor and employer sectors,” said Director Bacay as she officially called the meeting to order.

Around 50 labor and employer representatives participated in the meeting where the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) presented updates on the disbursement and availment of the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) under Bayanihan 1 and 2. The report complemented BLE’s discussion on the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) 2021-2022, which showed the current Administration’s priority activities and programs of towards restarting economic activities, restoring business confidence, facilitating labor market access, and upgrading and retooling the workforce.

Assistant Secretary and concurrent BLE Director Dominique Rubia-Tutay was also present to clarify the approval process of application for CAMP and the concrete government interventions to assist workers and businesses alike during this pandemic. Notably, Mr. Rey Rasing of the Philippine Metalworkers’ Alliance underscored the vaccination of essential workers as key to building back better the Philippine economy.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to outlining TESDA’s Tulong Trabaho Scholarship Program and the availment of free training on Occupational Safety and

Health (OSH) through the OSHC and BLR's Workers Organization Development Program (WODP), which are part of the government's effort in upgrading and reskilling the workforce under NERS 2021-2022.

The BLR serves as the secretariat of the AAITC, CITC, CTITC, PSITC, and EITC.

End/Athena M. Villagonzalo

