

NTIPC Unanimously Supports Additional Mechanisms for COVID-19 Recovery

On 17 August 2021, the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC) unanimously approved a Resolution Supporting the Enactment of Additional Mechanisms to Accelerate COVID-19 Recovery and Bolster the Resiliency of the Philippine Economy. Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez presided over the online NTIPC plenary meeting participated by around 50 labor, employer, and government representatives.

As the pandemic continues to negatively affect the Philippine economy and employment landscape, the NTIPC members resolved to fully support the enactment of additional mechanisms to accelerate economic recovery from the pandemic and to continue the income guarantee for displaced or disadvantaged workers and wage subsidy for micro, small, and medium enterprises. According to the NTIPC, this legislation should be coupled with the total and effective implementation of existing programs for COVID-19 recovery.

The NTIPC noted in the Resolution that the local transmission of COVID-19 variants poses a challenge to the government's efforts to ensure the safe reopening of the economy. Hence, the NTIPC also encouraged the massive vaccination of workers, provision of paid skills training, strategic employment facilitation, strong public health system, financial incentives for private enterprises retaining their employees, improved public transportation, and upgraded digital infrastructure as key to restoring jobs and building back better the economy.

The Resolution was first presented to the Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC) on 25 March 2021 and was approved on the same day. The TEC is the technical and implementing arm of the NTIPC that initially reviews resolutions or proposed policy issuances before they are considered and deliberated on at the NTIPC.

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