

Mediator-Arbiters Convene for their 2021 National Consultation

After a year of not holding such event due to the pandemic, the Mediator-Arbiters from the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) and all DOLE Regional Offices convene for this year's annual national consultation, held on 10-12 November 2021, via Zoom platform.

The annual consultation serves as a forum for the Mediator-Arbiters (MAs) to gain and sharpen their knowledge and skills on labor laws, rules and regulations. It also aimed at achieving uniform and correct application of labor laws to all labor disputes and other labor-related issues and concerns.

Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez, in his opening remarks, specifically instructed the MAs to discuss cases with challenging issues and to come up with agreements on the resolutions.

The series of discussions kicked off with the Case Presentation on Department Order No. 40-03, Certification Election, Inter-Intra Union Disputes by Atty. Maureen Zena Serazon-Tongson of DOLE Region IV-A. Atty. Ramon A. Saura III of BLR apprised the body of the latest Labor Advisories¹ of the Department.

Day two of the consultation started with a demonstration of the Certification Election Online Voting System (CE OVS) by Atty. Abigail Dela Rosa of BLR. The CE OVS was developed, by the Bureau and the Planning Service, to provide ease in the conduct of certification election in the private and public sector and to serve as a complement or alternative to the traditional face-to-face election. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a stable mental health in this period of public emergency, Ms. Andy E. Fausto of Stellar Training and Consultancy delivered, on the same day, a presentation on Health and Wellness/Stress Management at the time of Pandemic.

¹ L.A. No. 14, series of 2021: Working Conditions of Delivery Riders in Food Delivery and Courier Activities
L.A. No. 08, series of 2021: Promotion of COVID-19 Vaccination in the Private Sector
L.A. No. 03, series of 2021: Guidelines on the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines in the Workplaces

National Conciliation-Mediation Board's (NCMB) Deputy Executive Director Teresita E. Audea delivered a lecture on Collective Bargaining Process, Conciliation of Labor-Management Disputes/Preventive Mediation, for the last day of the consultation. In the allotted session on work ethics, Reverend Father Israel Enero Camara discussed the biblical and spiritual aspect of public service.

In closing this year's national consultation, Director Bacay expressed her gratitude to all the participants for their active engagement throughout the event and her hope to conduct the next year's consultation face-to-face.

