

## BLR JOINS ORIENTATION ON THE GUIDELINES ON THE SUPPORT FOR WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

In observance of the 18-day campaign to end violence against women (VAW), the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) held an orientation on the guidelines on the support for workers in the informal economy under Section 20 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 11313, otherwise known as the Safe Spaces Act.

The Safe Spaces Act defines gender-based sexual harassments (GBSH) in streets and public spaces, online space, workplaces, and education and training institutions; and penalizes qualified act of any form of GBSH.

Mr. Nicanor V. Bon of the DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) discussed the Department Order 230, series of 2021 or the Guidelines on the Support for Workers in the Informal Economy under the Safe Spaces Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The guidelines are

formulated by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to provide support to workers in the informal economy who WOULD experience GBSH. The D.O. 230-21 covers the workers defined under the Batas Kasambahay, employed under informal economy, or employed in establishments with ten or fewer employees. Mr. Bon

### Legal Basis



**Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11313 –**

**SEC. 20. Support for Workers in the Informal Economy.** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of these rules, the DOLE in coordination with concerned agencies, shall develop guidelines on the provision of appropriate mechanisms and interventions, including redress mechanisms, for employees covered by R.A. No. 10361 or the Kasambahay Law, those employed in the informal economy and those employed in establishments where there are only ten or fewer employees.

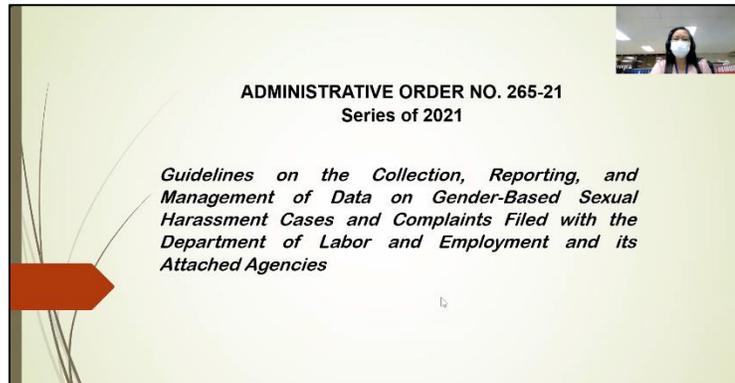


Department of Labor and Employment  
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emphasized that as a form of assistance, the DOLE's main role is to assess the complaints of the workers, and refer the complainants to the appropriate government entity. The complainants may be referred to DOLE Attached Agencies, Regional or Field Offices, PNP Women and Children's Desk, Barangay Anti-Sexual Harassment Desk, Commission on Human Rights, Public Attorney's Office, Provincial or City Prosecutor and other appropriate law enforcement agencies.

The BLR Staffs were also oriented on how to properly reports complaints on GBSH. Ms. Myra Flor M. Among of the BLR discussed the Administrative Order 265, series of 2021 or the Guidelines on the Collection,



Reporting, and Management of Data on GBSH Cases and Complaints Filed with the DOLE and its Attached Agencies. Ms. Among explained the process of collecting and maintaining record of GBHS cases, complaints filed, anonymous letters, and reports received. She also emphasized the observance of the Data Privacy Act in processing collected data and sensitive information.



Lastly, Mr. Demark Descatiar of the DOLE-Planning Service oriented the BLR Staff on the features of the Safe Spaces System. Mr. Descatiar demonstrated how to encode relevant information regarding a filed complaint such as complainant information if not an anonymous

filing, information of the person complained of, location of the incident and other complaint details. The system was developed to facilitate collection, reporting and management of data on GBHS cases or complaints.

On her closing remarks, BLR-Director Maria Consuelo S. Bacay reminded the participants that the Safe Spaces Act is a very liberal law, however, its core value is mutual respect and knowing one's boundaries.

**END/Katrina S. del Rosario**