

BLR Holds 2nd Mediator-Arbiters En Banc Meeting



On June 28, 2022, the Mediator-Arbiters from the Bureau of Labor Relations, DOLE National Capital Region (NCR), Regional Office III, and Regional Office IV-A again met for the 2nd Mediator-Arbiters' En Banc meeting at Acacia Hotel in Alabang City.

The second en banc meeting focused on the discussion of issues and concerns on Department Order No. 40-03, and briefing on the newly issued D.O. No. 40-J, series of 2022, Amending Rule VII of Implementing Rules of Book V of the Labor Code of the Philippine, As Amended by D.O. No. 40-03.

Present in the meeting were Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez, DOLE NCR Regional Director Sarah Buena S. Mirasol and BLR Director Maria Consuelo S. Bacay. In her opening remarks, R.D. Mirasol said that with the meeting, the Mediator-Arbiters would be further equipped with the strategies for dealing with complex labor issues and concerns, particularly the implementation of D.O. 40-03, as amended.

In his special message, Usec. Benavidez expressed his gratitude to the Mediator-Arbiters for continuously performing their duties even in a pandemic. As the new administration comes in, he said that whoever handles the labor relations cluster, Mediator-Arbiters, should constantly be reminded of the policies the cluster had been adhering to for decades.

In the course of the meeting, Dir. Bacay responded and clarified issues and concerns of the Mediator-Arbiters on the implementation of DO No. 40-03.



Mediator-Arbiter Juevanrey Narisma presented D.O. No. 40-J, a series of 2022, which was issued on April 01, 2022. He said this is the first amendment to the D.O. 40-03 since 2016. He further informed his fellow Mediator-Arbiters of the Bureau's plan to further review the said Department Order to address inconsistencies and redundant provisions.

The Mediator-Arbiters' En Banc meeting is a regular activity of the BLR which serves as a venue for Mediator-Arbiters to discuss the latest issuances and policy directives, and discuss issues and problems in the implementation of labor relations provisions of the Labor Code, particularly D.O. 40-03, as amended.

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