

News Release
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DOLE to DSWD: “Let’s Do It”

Cebu City, Philippines. DOLE Region 7 once again raised the bar of commitment when talks with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) officials finally yielded positive feedback in as far as the profiling of child laborers in the region is concerned.

With the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) set to be signed before end of July 2018, DOLE and DSWD celebrated another milestone in fostering inter-agency campaign against child labor.

Talks began in early June 2018 with DOLE child labor focal personnel and DSWD. Subsequent efforts led to in-depth dialogue on the prospect of data sharing through DSWD’s *Listahanan* at the Office of the Assist Regional Director on July 12, 2018. In said meeting, DOLE Assistant Regional Director Atty. Roy L. Buenafe, stressed that documents were underway to comply with lawful data protocol requirements.

In its communication addressed to DOLE, DSWD specified the signing of a MOA as one of the requirements for the data transfer. Said documents set the duties and responsibilities of both parties including the designation of a Data Protection Officer (DPO) in compliance with Republic Act No. 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012. Such measure is necessary to respect and maintain the confidentiality and security of transmitted data from one agency to the recipient office and in essence, prevent the unauthorized disclosure or access of data subject into the wrong hands.

DOLE Regional Director Atty. Alvin M. Villamorsaw DSWD's effort as a positive response to DOLE's Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP). In his direct but modest words, Atty. Villamor admitted the benefits of the linkage between and among similarly-aligned units and partners.

"We need this kind of collaboration. As DOLE is mandated to deliver, it would become expedient at times, to leverage our reach by working with other government agencies. Being prudent enough to know when to enlist the help of our program partners is what you call initiative," says the regional head.

Upon DOLE's request, Mr. Ruben D. Boybanting and Ms. Rachele C. Cuizon of DSWD visited DOLE on July 17, 2018 to discuss the Data Privacy Act before heads of the different field offices and child labor program focal person/representatives. This was done at the height of the discussion on the Child Labor Profiling Tool conducted by the DOLE Technical Support and Services Division for Employment and Workers Welfare (TSSD-EWW). It can be recalled that Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III issued guidelines on the profiling of child laborers nationwide.

For almost three decades since the Philippines ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990, Congress has passed laws promoting the rights and welfare of children. This includes legislations protecting them from abuse and exploitation including the worst forms of child labor.

In the Philippines, about 2.1 children nationwide, aged 5 to 7 years old, were reportedly engaged in child labor; 97.7% of these were employed in hazardous work based on the 2011 Survey of the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA).

Atty. Villamor had high hopes that DOLE 7 can come up with a regional registry of child laborers in Central Visayas.

“Children engaged in child labor could be anywhere. DSWD’s registry could help us trace their identity and location for validation. With such partnership, we would be able to help our enumerators, hired as GIP interns, in profiling this vulnerable sector with facility and we are grateful for DSWD in being with us in this campaign,” added Atty. Villamor.



Field Office Heads and Child Labor Focal Persons’ Orientation on Child Labor Profiling Tool and 2018 Planning for Project Angel Tree with visitors from DSWD integrating discussion on the Data Privacy Act of 2012

(From Left to Right: Mr. Rustico M. Levi Custorio of Tri-City Field Office, Ms. Ma. Corazon H. Monroid of Bohol Field Office, Mr. Pablito R. Megalbio of DSWD, Ms. Rachelle C. Cuizon, Statistician II of DSWD, Cebu Provincial Field Office Chief Ms. Maria Nancy Z. Abad, Mr. Ruben D. Boybanting, Project Development Officer IV of DSWD, Director II and Bohol Field Office Chief Ms. Lilia A. Estillore, Negros Oriental Field Office Chief Ms. Marites G. Mercado, Siquijor Field Office Representative Ms. Cherry Lee B. Acabo, Tri-City Field Office Labor and Employment Officer II Ms. Prescilla S. Pulgo, Ms. Vernice U. Tudtud, Project Based Individual of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), and Ms. Meldie G. Tabanao, DOLE Regional Office 7 Alternate Child Labor Focal Person.)



Meeting with DOLE 7 Asst. Regional Director Atty. Roy L. Buenafe (2nd from left), TSSD-EWW Chief Ms. Maria Nancy Z. Abad (1st from left), Ms. Rachelle C. Cuizon, DSWD Statistician II of DSWD (in white shirt), and Ms. Meldie G. Tabanao, DOLE Alternate Child Labor Focal Person (standing in blue shirt).

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