

## **Message of Support**

Secretary SILVESTRE H. BELLO III

*Sustaining Actions on OSH for Young Workers*

21 February 2019; 1:30 PM

[GREETINGS]

Director Khalid Hassan of ILO-Manila; leaders and members of workers' organizations; leaders and members of employers' organizations; fellow workers in government; guests and friends, a pleasant afternoon to all!

I congratulate the International Labor Organization for the successful engagement and conclusion of the SafeYouth@Work project. This project helped advance our government's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) policies. This facilitated as well raising the awareness on the workers' rights to know, to refuse unsafe work, and to report accidents.

We strengthened our OSH policies through Republic Act No. 11058 (Strengthening OSH Compliance Act), the Implementing Rules and Regulations of which became effective on 24 January 2019.

Our government, through the Department of Labor, continues to heighten its enforcement of both General Labor Standards and OSH standards. We do this by reinforcing our inspection and audit capabilities to ensure compliance by establishments throughout the country.

Also, the Department has been working towards the ratification by our government of the Promotional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health (ILO Convention No. 187).

But even against the backdrop of these positive initiatives, more remains to be done. Compliance is a recurring problem in the implementation of all these OSH policies and programs.

And with the onset of the Administration's Build, Build, Build Program, OSH practices will all the more be a major concern.

Hence, there is a need for measures to help ensure the sustainability of what we have jointly undertaken. We foresee better prospects for safety and health especially for our young workers with these steps we have taken so far:

1. The development and inclusion of Occupational Safety and Health in the basic education curriculum; and
2. The use of online games in the continuing OSH awareness campaign of the government. One such game is readily available at our Bureau of Working Condition website.

Our bureaus and regional offices are instructed to tighten their implementation of the General Labor Standards and OSH laws, and violations will not be tolerated.

Allow me to thank everyone, as we look forward to more future collaborations with the ILO and our Tripartite partners.

Mabuhay tayong lahat! Thank you!