

2017 NWPC-RTWPB Corporate Planning Exercise

KEYNOTE MESSAGE

Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III

Delivered by Undersecretary Bernard P. Olalia

Assistant Secretary Rick Abuan, Executive Director Criselda Sy, all Regional Boards Chairpersons, and Board Secretaries, officers and staff of NWPC, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

- On the occasion of your annual corplanning exercise and as your Chairperson, it is fitting to address the Commission Secretariat and the Board Chairpersons and the Secretaries in aligning wage and productivity policies in support of the administration's agenda. Anchored on the National Economic blueprint "AmBisyon Natin" 2040, our aim is to achieve Disenteng Trabaho para sa Manggagawang Pilipino: Patuloy na Abutin sa 2017 by: (1) Ensuring full respect for labor standards and rights at work; (2) Addressing problems of unemployment and underemployment; (3) Bringing more focus and accessibility to workers' protection and welfare; and (4) Strengthening the protection and security of our OFWs. Relevantly, these 4-point labor agenda of the Department of Labor and Employment.
- I recognize the difficulty of balancing workers' demand for a national living wage against employers' call for reasonable minimum wage and because of these divergent and sometimes conflicting goals, I expect the Commission and the Boards to regularly review and adjust minimum wage strictly in accordance with the law and applicable rules and guidelines. Relative to this, I am instructing the Regional Boards to keep me informed and your cluster head, Usec. Olalia on the status of wage issuances in your respective regions.
- In the area of productivity, let us focus our interventions on helping MSMEs and their workers improve their productivity, as this will redound to business viability, expansion and growth as well as higher income opportunities for our workers. We are also committed to help the Department of Trade and Industry in its "Kapatid: Angat Lahat Program" which aims to link MSMEs to the value chains.
- Lastly, I would like to congratulate the Commission and the Boards for being the first government agency to be certified under ISO 9001:2015 and for achieving human resource maturity level 3 for its human resource system under CSC's program to institutionalize meritocracy and excellence in human resource management (PRIME-HRM). Again, congratulations on these commendable achievements.
- Finally, I hope that the Commission and the Boards will be able to conclude this corplanning exercise with a concrete plan to deliver its commitment to set fair and reasonable minimum wages and to raise the productivity and competitiveness of workers and MSMEs.
- Thank you and good morning.