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DTI, DOLE unify gov't agencies, industry groups for employment and livelihood



(From left to right) DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco Jr., and DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez discuss employment and livelihood opportunities over coffee during TNK 2016 on 1-2 December 2016 at SM Aura Tower, Taguig City.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) gathered government and public sectors, as well as members of the academe to synchronize their efforts in further boosting jobs creation through meaningful employment and livelihood during the *Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan* (TNK) Employment and Livelihood Summit held on 1-2 December 2016 at SM Aura Tower, Taguig City.

This event, with the theme *“Malasakit at Pagbabago Tungo sa Kaunlaran at Katiwasayan”*, aimed to integrate policy recommendations from previously held summits of different sectors to craft a new employment roadmap, supporting the National Development and Security Strategy aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

These past sectoral summits include the launch of the Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) Roadmap on 28 October, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Summit last 10-11 November, the Philippine Construction Congress for Employment Generation held on 23 November, and the Manufacturing Summit held on 28-29 November.

“We want to identify the strategies to increase employment levels, improve access to employment opportunities, and address our skills requirement,” said **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez.**

He also encouraged the participants to invest in job generating industries like manufacturing, IT-BPM, retail trade, construction, and tourism, as well as in human capital to help address skills mismatch.

During the summit, key movers from government agencies and industry groups discussed strategic employment and livelihood initiatives. They were, among others:

- **DTI-Regional Operations Group (ROG) Undersecretary Zenaida Cuison Maglaya** talked about global opportunities for MSMEs, as well as highlights from the MSME Summit and the MSME Development Plan 2017-2022;
- **DTI-Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo** gave an overview of the construction industry and the administration's infrastructure plan for 2017-2022, and reported highlights of the Construction Congress;
- **DTI-Industry Development Group (IDG) Assistant Secretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba** tackled the Manufacturing Resurgence Program (MRP) and the recommendations from the Manufacturing Summit;
- **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon** discussed the country's employment situation;
- **National Housing Authority (NHA) Assistant General Manager Froilan R. Kampitan** explained strategies to generate employment through mass housing;
- **Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Romeo S. Momo** reported on public investments in infrastructure and its effect on employment;
- **IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines Executive Committee Chair Benedict C. Hernandez** tackled the future of the IT-BPM sector;
- **Philippine Retailers Association President Paul A. Santos** presented the remarkable contribution of retailing to employment generation;
- **Department of Tourism (DOT) Undersecretary Alma Rita D. Jimenez** discussed the Tourism Roadmap 2022;
- **DOLE Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) Director Ahmma Chrismaa Lobrin-Satumba** talked about the livelihood programs of various agencies; and
- **Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector (ALLWIES) President Susanita G. Tesiorna** outlined the barriers and challenges to growth of livelihood.



DTI and DOLE officials, led by DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (fourth from left), DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III (fourth from right), and Cabinet Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco (fifth from left), gathered to cap the Employment and Livelihood Summit.

“We hope that together, government, business and the academe, can craft an action agenda that we can all pursue at the start of next year,” Sec. Lopez said.

At the end of the two-day summit, key movers from the public and private sector who took part in the event signed the new blueprint for decent employment and entrepreneurship. They committed to prioritize decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, formalization and growth of MSMEs, reduction of youth not in employment, education, and training, and raising industry's share in employment and gross domestic product (GDP).

The outputs of the summit will be submitted for consideration to **President Rodrigo Roa Duterte**.