

DOLE, 16 OTHER AGENCIES FORGE MOA TO COMBAT AGAINST CHILD LABOR



From Left to Right: Regional Director PCSupt. Gil C. Meneses, PNP; OIC-Assistant Regional Director Florecili Gunio, DSWD; Regional Director Atty. Ricardo S. Martinez, Sr., DOLE IV-A; Vice Chairman for Management Mr. Eduardo Nicolas, RTIPC IV-A, Inc.; and Regional Director Norito Cabotaje, PIA

The Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A and other agencies forged a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) last June 8, 2011 at the Harana Pavillion of Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños, Laguna. Said activity was in commemoration of the World Day Against Child Labor (WDAKL) on June 12, 2011 with the theme, *“Mapanganib na Paggawa, Bawal sa Bata.”*

In his opening remarks, Atty. Ricardo S. Martinez Sr., DOLE IV-A Regional Director encouraged the participants to support all the inter-agency activities in reducing, if not totally

eliminating, the number of child laborers in the region.

Dir. Norito A. Cabotaje, PIA IV-A, OIC-ARD Florecilli G. Gunio, DSWD IV-A and Regional Director PCSupt. Gil C. Meneses, PNP IV-A, in response to the DOLE initiative, pledged their commitments to persistently attaining the goals and objectives of the MOA. The testimony of Rafael Grancioso, a former child laborer, highlighted the activity as he narrated his story and how Shoreline Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran, Inc., a non-governmental organization and DOLE Cavite Provincial Office saved him from his hazardous work as *“mangengete”* in Naic, Cavite.



DOLE IV-A Regional Director Atty. Ricardo S. Martinez, Sr.



Rafael Grancioso, a former child laborer

The private sector, represented by Mr. Eduardo R. Nicolas, Vice Chairman for Management of the Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Council IV-A, Inc. likewise expressed assurance on the commitment of the private sector in providing assistance to child labor victims and in identifying establishments engaged in child labor.

Present during the MOA Signing were: Regional Director Ricardo S. Martinez, Sr., DOLE; Dir. Leonilda S. Calagui, CHED; PCSupt. Gil C. Meneses, PNP; Dir. Rustico Q. Vigila, NBI; Hon. OIC-Dir. Dante Santiago M. Rito, CHR; Dir. Rosalinda P. Bautista, NSO; Dir. Norito A. Cabotaje, PIA; Dir. Abelardo R. Bragas, DA; Dir. Louella C. Jurilla, DOT; Mr. Eduardo R. Nicolas, Vice Chairman for Management of RTICP IV-A, Inc.; ARD Ariel O. Iglesia, DILG; ARD Liberty Abellon,

NEDA; OIC-ARD Florecili G. Guino, DSWD; Mr. Pascual R. Arriola, Provincial Director, TESDA Laguna; Ms. Angelina Umali, DepEd; Dr. Valerie Pascual, DOH; and Ms. Gliceria Trinidad, PESO Federation of Region IV-A.; and witnessed by six former child laborers headed by Rafael Grancioso; staffs of Shoreline Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran, Inc.; and media.



Guests, participants and stakeholders who attended the event.

Meanwhile, Ms. Charity Bautista of NSO IV-A headed the Launching of the Working Children in the CALABARZON Fact Sheet with a presentation on the latest available data on child workers and those children working in hazardous conditions up to the regional level. She also encouraged everyone to support the Quarterly Labor Force Survey and the 2011 Survey on Children in October.

The Department of Labor and Employment Region IV-A chairs the CALABARZON Child Labor Committee (CCLC) and its Sub-Committee on Knowledge Sharing System, Mainstreaming and Advocacy and Sub-Committee on Compliance to Laws and Enforcement.



Ms Teresita del Rosario (Top Left), Fiscal Josef Comilang (Right) & Mr. Dionisio Dalusong (Bottom Left)

The afternoon session was a learning session on the different laws related to child labor. R.A. 9231 or “An Act for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor” was presented by Ms. Teresita del Rosario of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concern. Next was R.A. 9208 or the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003” discussed by Fiscal Joseph Comilang of DOJ IV-A. Lastly, R.A. 9775 or the “Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009” was tackled by Mr. Dionisio Dalusong of DSWD IV-A.

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