

News Release

Department of Labor and Employment –Negros Oriental Field Office

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Stakeholders scale up implementation Philippine Program Against Child Labor, DOLE leads profiling of child laborers in Negros Oriental

Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental –A province-wide profiling of child laborers starts July 16th in a bid to withdraw child laborers from child labor and help their families receive government assistance to effectively fight the menace and its worst forms.

DOLE, DSWD, DEPED, the Visayan Forum and some 26 Local Government Units of Negros Oriental have joined hands to locate and identify child laborers from the Province's 557 barangays in support to the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 to withdraw 630,000 children from child labor.

Child labor refers to any work or economic activity performed by children under 18 years of age that subject them to any form of exploitation or is harmful to their health and safety or physical, mental, or psychosocial development.

Based on the 2011 Survey on Children, some 2.1 million children 5 to 17 years old were engaged in child labor.

Said child laborers were found working in agriculture, services and industry sectors.

Child Labor is most prevalent in Regions III, V, X,V-A and VI.

The same survey reported that Central Visayas is home to 155,178 child laborers bringing Region VII to top 6 as Child Labor Hotspot in the country.

According to DOLE-NOFO Chief Marites Mercado the profiling aims to create a Child Labor Local Registry in every town and city of Negros Oriental.

She added that DSWD will profile target child laborers who are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) along with the DEPED for in-school children.

Unaccounted child laborers who are not covered by the DSWD and DEPED will be profiled by the Igu's through the barangays and social partner the Visayan Forum (Voice of the Free).

Mercado added that following the identification of child laborers and their families through profiling, the DOLE will conduct needs assessment and referral for provision of services.

The provision of appropriate services and interventions necessary to remove the children from child labor include skills retooling and livelihood assistance to parents, formal and informal education of child laborers, late registration of birth certificate, among others.

DOLE chairs the National Child Labor Committee as the central policy and coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor.

Other NCLC members include DSWD, DEPED, DOH, DILG, DOJ, DA, CWC, NEDA, PIA, PSA, NYC, TUCP, FFW, ECOP, & NCSDFI



Stakeholders in Santa Catalina town undergo orientation on Child Labor Profiling at the town's mini gymnasium on Friday, July 13 in preparation to the province-wide profiling of children starting July 16th.



DOLE-NOFO Chief Marites Mercado solicits support before the Local Council for the Protection of Children of LGU-Tanjay on the Profiling of Child Laborers and Provision of Services to remove them from child labor.

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