



EVENT BRIEFER

CONTINUATION OF REGIONAL ROLLOUT OF ILO RECOMMENDATION 204 (TRANSITION FROM INFORMAL TO FORMAL ECONOMY)

I. Background

- Informality has been a major challenge for many developing countries such as the Philippines as they strive to achieve the goal of decent work for all. The informal economy generally refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are “– in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements”. The issue of informality is more prevalent in the informal sector where economic activities are mostly not covered nor protected by national laws or regulations. Since many informal economy workers operate as independent, self-employed, small-scale producers of goods and services, they are likely to rely on daily earnings and move from one opportunity to another to sustain their necessities. Thus, the informal economy workers confront decent work issues such as low and irregular income, unsafe and unprotected working spaces, lack of coverage to social protection and lack of access to social dialogue platforms, among others. The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent inflation concerns might further exacerbate their already vulnerable position.
- In 2015, the International Labor Conference (ILO) adopted Recommendation No. 204 to provide member-states with a comprehensive guide in developing an integrated and coherent framework to facilitate the transition of informal workers and economic units to the formal economy. Recognizing the important role of subnational actors, adopting ILO R204 principles in local policies and plans is a key strategy to support the development of responsive, tailor-fit policies and programs to address informality with consideration on the specific contexts of provinces and localities. Thus, it is equally important to introduce ILO R204 as a policy guide to the local authorities and stakeholders. Since 2019, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), with the support from ILO Philippines and National Anti-Poverty Commission Workers in the Informal Sector (NAPC-WISC) has conducted rollout activities with the Regional Development Councils (RDCs), which serves as the “highest policy-making body in the region and the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region”.
- The Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) will conduct the rollout of ILO R204 in selected Regional Development Councils (RDCs) to introduce ILO R204 as a guiding framework for promoting enterprise and job formalization to local policymakers, partners and stakeholders.

II. Objectives

1. Introduce and raise the awareness of the members of the RDCs, including the local authorities and stakeholders, on ILO Recommendation No. 204 as a framework for the development of policies, plans and programs for the informal economy.
2. Discuss the existing policies and programs on enterprise development and informal economy in the Philippines.
3. Facilitate the exchange of experiences, views and insights among the local policymakers, partners, and stakeholders on the issue of informality in their respective localities and identify policy recommendations towards formalization.

III. Target Regions and Schedule

Region	Indicative Date
MIMAROPA	September 27
8	September 30
CAR	October 6
2	October 12
4A	October 20

IV. Zoom Link

- The activity will be conducted online through **Zoom Meeting** to maximize the participation of stakeholders from different regions. Kindly refer below to access the meeting room.

Meeting ID	863 5787 5931
Passcode	638182
Link	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86357875931?pwd=cnpDdjhpUgzVVIWeCtuQ3h6RnU5Zz09

V. Methodology and Expected Participants

- A one-day online forum and workshop shall comprise the following activities:

1. Presentations and discussions on the following:

Brief Overview of Informal Economy and Labor Situationer	Mr. Cyrus Policarpio DOLE-BWSC
ILO Recommendation 204, Status of its Implementation, and local approaches to enterprise formalization	Mr. Hideki Kagohashi* ILO Philippines
Diagnostic Review of Philippine Policies on Formalization of Informal Enterprises (2019)	Ms. Aji Espinoza Independent Consultation Network Co.
Developing Roadmap to Enterprise Formalization	Ms. Susanita Tesiorna* NAPC-WISC/ALLWIES

**For confirmation*

2. A workshop session shall be facilitated to gather the insights of the participants on the issues and problems of the informal economy and provide initial recommendations, in consideration of local or regional contexts. The following are the workshop mechanics:
- Participants shall be divided into three (3) or four (4) groups, depending on the total number of participants, and then be transferred into breakout rooms.
 - Each group shall designate a (1) *Facilitator* to lead the discussion and a (2) *Rapporteur* to present the group output. The BWSC and DOLE RO shall be assigned as (3) *Documenters* to each group to work on the workshop template in Google Sheet, document and synthesize the discussion, and prepare the presentation materials for the rapporteur.
 - The discussion will be guided by two (2) main questions:

- *What are the relevant issues and problems of the Informal Economy in your region/locality or sector?*
- *What do you think are the policies and that could contribute in facilitating transition from informal to formal economy based on the ILO R204 prescribed policy areas (i.e. business entry and ease of doing business, social protection and security of workplace, access to market, financial inclusion and access to credit, and access to productive resources)?*
- Expected Participants
 - The event expects to gather 75 participants, of which 50 will come from the RDC.
 - RDC member agencies that are concerned with economic, social/employment or *enterprise* development shall be invited. These include, but not limited to the following: (1) DAR, (2) DA, (3) DBM, (4) DICT, (5) DOST, (6) DSWD, (7) DILG, (8) DTI, (9) DOTr, (10) DOT, (11) TESDA, (12) BFAR, (13) NEDA, (14), (15) DHSUD (HUDCC), (16) PSA, (17) BSP, (18) Chairperson, (19) Co-Chairperson, and (20) Vice Chairperson (NEDA).
 - Special non-voting members and private sector members, including the civil society organization, may be invited if their advocacies are related to informal economy workers and enterprise development.
 - Priority given to LGU members of economic, social/employment or enterprise development committees or the Provincial Government, Provincial Capitals and Chartered Cities.

VI. Agency Tasking

BWSC	Regional Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead in the facilitation of the activity. Invite resource persons from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), International Labor Organization (ILO) Philippines, etc. Consolidate the outputs into an indicative action plan. It shall be endorsed to the respective RDCs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide administrative support to the DOLE-BWSC such as facilitating the delivery of invitation, coordination with the RDC, confirmation of participants, and support staff, and other tasks that are deemed necessary.

VII. Contact Information

For queries or clarifications, you may contact the following staff of the Workers in the Informal Economy Development Division (WIEDD):

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