

FIRST LABOR SERVICE AND WORKERS COOPERATIVES CONGRESS
Skylight Convention Center, Puerto Princesa City
May 21-23, 2015

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, two of the most critical problems affecting the Filipino nation today are poverty and unemployment -- problems that have remained unresolved for several decades now;

WHEREAS, we, the organizers and participants of the First Labor Service and Workers Cooperatives Cluster Congress held at Skylight Convention Center, Puerto Princesa City, this May 21-23, 2013, believe that labor service cooperatives can become genuine vehicles for social inclusion, economic growth, poverty eradication, more equitable wealth distribution, and human and cultural development of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, labor service and workers cooperatives are truly enablers and partners in job generation, job facilitation, and job security by contributing to the continuous development of relevant skills of the workers, thereby helping enhance their employability at present and in the event of the ASEAN economic integration;

WHEREAS, labor service and workers cooperatives directly employ roughly 600,000 workers and benefit their workers-members by way of dividends and patronage refunds, in addition to other statutory and voluntarily granted benefits;

WHEREAS, while the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provide recognition and support to labor service and workers cooperatives as legitimate job contractors and sub-contractors, there is a strongly felt need to enhance and intensify such support in order to strengthen the role of labor service and workers cooperatives in job creation, eradication of poverty, and in nation building in general, in consonance with the preferential treatment provided for by the Constitution of the Philippines and R.A. 9520 for cooperatives;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved:

1. That all government and non-government regulatory bodies, including but not limited to the DOLE, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), SSS, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG, etc., through the initiative of CDA, should develop and implement ways to support and give preferential treatment to labor service and workers cooperatives;
2. That CDA and BIR should expeditiously resolve existing issues on tax exemptions of labor service and workers cooperatives, including but not limited to issuance and renewal of Certificate of Tax Exemption (CTE), treatment on taxable transactions, and education and training among field personnel of both offices;

3. That the DOLE and CDA should continue to allow labor service and workers cooperatives to deduct from their members the installment payment of their share capital through regular payroll deductions until such a time when each member shall have fully paid their share capital contribution, provided each member shall submit an appropriate authorization for such payroll deduction;
4. That DOLE shall cease from ordering the labor service and workers cooperatives to return capital contributions earlier deducted from members through payroll deductions for such is the bloodline of a cooperative;
5. That the CDA, DOLE, BIR, and other regulatory or government and non-government agencies should henceforth harmonize their policy issuance in the future in order to ensure a more integrated approach at regulating the operations of labor service and workers cooperatives, and in order for policies and implementing rules and regulations to be consistent with the Constitutional provisions protecting the cooperatives, and with R. A. 9520;
6. That all labor service and workers cooperative should be fully compliant with all regulatory requirements of the CDA, DOLE and government regulatory agencies;
7. That all labor service and workers cooperative should stand and unite to fight for its rights and benefits as provided by the constitution and law;
8. That aforesaid resolutions be accepted, as hereby approved by the participants in this first Congress of labor service and workers cooperatives, and copies be furnished to appropriate government regulatory bodies, including but not limited to, the Office of the President, the Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Labor, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Chairman of the Cooperative Development Authority, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and other pertinent agencies.

WITNESS OUR HAND, this 22nd day of May, 2014, in Puerto Princesa City.