

PRESS RELEASE
NCMB – DOLE

HOSPITAL WORKERS GET WINDFALL IN NEW CBA

September 28, 2009 – The management and union of the Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center recently signed their new CBA, ending months of protracted negotiations between the parties, NCMB Executive Director Reynaldo R. Ubaldo announced today.

In his report to Labor Secretary Marianito D Roque, Exec. Director Ubaldo said about 314 workers of the hospital stand to benefit from the settlement amounting to P33M, which comprise increases in salaries and wages, retirement benefits, signing bonus, loyalty pay, death aid benefits, Christmas bonus, and meal allowance.

The signing took place at the NCMB – NCR office in Intramuros, Manila on September 18, 2009, Exec. Director Ubaldo said.

He said the new CBA covers the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

On August 14, 2009, Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center Employees Association, an affiliate of the Alliance of Filipino Workers filed before the NCMB a notice of strike after negotiations at the plant level ended in a deadlock, Exec. Director Ubaldo further stated.

Failing to agree after a series of conciliation conferences, the Company filed a petition before the Secretary to assume jurisdiction over the dispute, Exec. Director Ubaldo added.

“While the petition was yet to be acted upon by the Secretary, we held a marathon conciliation on September 18, 2009, in a last ditch effort to resolve the issue,” Exec. Director Ubaldo said, adding “the settlement of the case rendered the Petition moot and academic.”

NCMB NCR Director Walfredo Villazor and Conciliator-Mediator Angelita Narvaez assisted Exec. Director Ubaldo in fashioning out the agreement.

Aside from the aforementioned case, NCMB also settled recently the notice of strike filed by Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc. Administrative and Marketing Employees Union against Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc., Exec. Director Ubaldo added.

He said that the 157 workers of the company benefited from the settlement of the case with P18.5M in CBA packages spread over three years.

The case was filed on July 4, 2009 and was settled on September 4, 2009, after barely a month of conciliation proceedings, Exec. Director Ubaldo said.

He said that the case was settled through the efforts of Conciliator-Mediator Amorsolo Aglibut of NCMB – NCR where the case was lodged.

Meanwhile, the Petition for Assumption of Jurisdiction filed by the management of Columbia Wire and Cable Corporation on August 26, 2009 concerning the Notice of Strike filed by Columbia Wire and Cable Union Chapter – FFW was rendered moot and academic after the parties agreed to settle following a marathon conciliation conducted by the NCMB on 11 September 2009, Exec. Director Ubaldo further disclosed.

He said the parties concluded the last two years of their CBA with benefits estimated at P3.2M benefiting some 143 members.

Salient features of the agreement include wage increase of P16/day and signing bonus of P3,000 payable to all covered employees, Exec. Director Ubaldo added.

Exec. Director Ubaldo commended Director Walfredo Villazor and Con-Med Angelita Narvaez who facilitated settlement of the case. (William E. Calina)