Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

13 May 2011

MS. MARCIA EUGENIO
Director
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking
Bureau of International Affairs
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear **Ms. Eugenio:**

We would like to submit the DOLE reply to the US DOL's Request for Information on Child Labor and Forced Labor.

Attached also are the latest DOLE submission on ILO Conventions 138 and 182.

We hope you find these in order.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Undersecretary

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DOLE Reply to U.S. Department of Labor's Request for Information on Child Labor and Forced Labor
Updates for the period January-December 2010

SECTION 1: WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

A: INFORMATION REQUESTED

4) INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAWS REGARDING CHILD LABOR AND HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOR:

5. Did inspectors receive training on hazardous child labor? Please describe

- The Bureau of Working Conditions regularly conducts orientation/training on child labor inspection aimed primarily at sustaining the capability-building program of labor inspectors relative to policy changes to improve the mechanisms of enforcement for child laborers so that labor inspectors can effectively contribute to the elimination of child labor. In 2010, five (5) trainings were conducted for 165 DOLE personnel.

- In March 2009, the then Bureau of Women and Young Workers (now Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns) conducted a *Training for Labor Inspectors, Hearing Officers and Sheriffs on the Effective Enforcement of Republic Act No. 9231 and Republic Act No. 9208.* The 62 DOLE personnel who participated in this training were expected to cascade their learnings to other DOLE personnel from their respective offices for a more effective response to child labor cases.

6) GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR:

1. Did the government have any policies or plans that specifically address child labor or any of its forms? Please describe.

Policies

- Memorandum of 25 May 2010 directing all DOLE Regional Offices to continuously conduct monitoring visits of the informal sectors/undertakings to validate or negate incidence of child labor in their respective locations prioritizing those areas producing the 12 goods identified in the US DOL's 2009 TVPRA List of Goods Produced with Child Labor such as banana, coconut, corn, fashion accessories, gold, hogs, pornography, pyrotechnics, rice, rubber, sugarcane and tobacco

- Department Circular No. 2, Series of 2010 adopting the *Manual on the Conduct of Inspection, Rescue and Enforcement Proceedings in Child Labor Cases*

  The Manual, which builds on the combined experiences and lessons learned by the DOLE Regional Offices in carrying out the provisions of Republic Act No. 9231 and related laws, provides a clear procedure for DOLE implementers in the performance of their duties and functions as provided under Republic Act No. 9231. It paves the way for speedy resolution on reported child labor cases.

- Administrative Order No. 281 dated 16 July 2010 on Guidelines on the Implementation of Project Labor Enforcement and Action Program (Project LEAP)

  Project LEAP intends to: a) protect the interest of the workers, including child workers; b) maximize compliance with labor standards; and c) develop a culture of compliance through partnership with other stakeholders

  Priority inspectionable establishments identified under Project LEAP are a) Security Agencies; b) Manpower Agencies; c) Subcontractors; d) Cooperatives; e) Manufacturing establishments; and f) Restaurants/Fast food enterprises

- Responding to a written query in September 2010 from an educational institution whether young persons between the ages of 15 and 18 can be employed in call centers or business process outsourcing (BPO) establishments, the DOLE position is not to allow them to work in such establishments even during day time, the work being considered hazardous based on existing law and regulations

- Advisory dated 19 May 2009 imploring all DOLE Regional Directors to comply with the notification requirements of Section 20, Item "g" of the Rules and Regulations Governing Private Recruitment and Placement Agency which states that "*Prior to deployment, the Regional Office of origin shall notify the Regional Office of destination of the arrival of the recruits, and the latter shall see to it that the terms and conditions of the recruitment contract are followed strictly*"

The advisory reminds the necessity for the DOLE Regional Offices to comply with the said guidelines to avoid the occurrence of problems relating to child labor and trafficking.

7) SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ELIMINATE OR PREVENT CHILD LABOR:

1. Did the government participate in or implement any programs specifically to address child labor in 2010? Please describe types of services provided and number children served if applicable.

   - The **Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) Strategic Framework for 2007-2015,** serves as the overarching framework for addressing the issue of child labor. It aims to: 1) prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labor; and 2) ensure the protection, withdrawal, and healing and reintegration of child laborers.

     Social partners from different sectors such as government, non-government organizations, workers' organizations, employers' groups, local government units, and international development organizations work together to address the child labor problem in the country.

     For its contribution to the PPACL, the DOLE continuously implements its Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP). Initiatives under the DOLE CLPEP include the following: Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM), Advocacy, Project Angel Tree and Kabuhayan Para sa Magulang ng Batang Manggagawa or KaSaMa Project (Livelihood Project for Parents of Child Laborers) with the following accomplishments for the period 2010:

     - The SBM Quick Action Teams conducted a total of 7 rescue operations wherein 39 child laborers were rescued from KTV bars. Most of the rescued child laborers have been integrated back to their respective families.

       Also in 2010, the DOLE permanently closed three (3) establishments found engaging minors in prostitution or obscene or lewd shows which brings to a total of **24 establishments** already closed permanently by the DOLE since the passage of Republic Act No. 9231. A total of **93 girls** were removed from these establishments. Criminal as well as administrative cases against the erring establishments are now lodged with the Department of Justice and DOLE respectively.

- Advocacy activities against child labor and child trafficking were conducted for various sectors. About 12,155 participants attended the said activities which resulted in the provision of direct assistance and school supplies to child labor victims; setting up of Anti-Illegal Recruitment Help Desk; involvement and support of the community; and increased awareness of the indigenous people on child labor and child trafficking.

- Under Project Angel Tree, school supplies donated by UNICEF and PPACL partners at the national, regional and local levels were provided to a total of 3,541 child laborers and children at risk.

- Since 2008, the KaSaMa Project benefitted 573 families of child laborers. As a result, 555 child laborers and children-at-risk have been removed or prevented from child labor.

  Among their livelihood activities are: water refilling station, meat/food processing, carpentry, welding, goat raising, swine fattening, garments making and vegetables production.

8) RESPONSE TO "SUGGESTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION" IN THE 2009 PROFILE

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- *Increase the age of compulsory schooling to match the minimum age for work*

  To help decrease the vulnerability of children between the ages of 12 to 14 to the worst forms of child labor, the Department of Education implements the following:

  - Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency (ALS A & E) Test offers successful test takers certification of learning achievement at two learning levels- elementary and secondary that is comparable to the formal school system. Among the target learners/clienteles of the ALS A&E Test include the unemployed/underemployed out-of-school youths and adults as well as the elementary and secondary school drop-outs/leavers.

  - Project Drop Out Reduction Program (DORP) was formulated to respond to the needs of students who cannot report to class regularly because they are working either as part time or full time or for any other reason.

The DORP is designed to address the problems faced by students which prevent them from completing their elementary and high school education and has three (3) components:

- Effective Alternative Secondary Education or EASE is applied to short-term and seasonal students at risk of dropping out (SARDO). It caters to the regular high school students in the formal system who may be absent intermittently from school especially during planting and harvest seasons.

  The students together with their parents and the teachers agree on the schedule of classes and the date of examination. Said schedule is adjusted depending on the availability of the students considering their situation.

- Open High School or Distance Education Program or OHSP is recommended for SARDOs who permanently cannot attend regular classes.

  The OHSP is not specific to certain schools. Public high schools all over the country offer this program. A student from a certain area can continue this/her studies in another school where he/she moved in and currently resides.

- School Initiated Interventions or SII are homegrown initiatives implemented by schools to address the drop out problem.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- *Increase the number of labor inspectors responsible for child labor and devote more resources to enforcement of child labor laws, including by:*

Targeting the number of inspections in sectors where children work

- The Bureau of Working Conditions conducts Basic Training Course for New Labor Inspectors.

  In 2010, the five (5) basic trainings conducted by the said Bureau increased the number of trained regional personnel of DOLE from 119 to 165. The ten-day basic training course has 28 topics for discussions centering on general labor standards (including child labor), inspection process and basic occupational safety and health. The training includes conduct of a plant visit which provides the participants an opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained during the training.

At the end of the course, the participants have to pass an examination for both the core labor standards and the occupational safety and health, undergo practical training for three months in the field before they can be certified as full-fledged labor inspectors.

- The DOLE, through its Project Labor Enforcement and Action Program (LEAP), intensifies its inspection program. The said project aims to protect the rights of workers including child workers through the attainment of a culture of compliance with labor laws among establishment nationwide.

  The project covers all inspectionable establishments employing 10-199 workers. Identified as priority establishments inspected under the project are the security agencies, manpower agencies, subcontractors, cooperatives, manufacturing establishments, restaurants and fast food enterprises.

  To enable the DOLE to cover more establishments, inspection will be zonal and the focus of inspection is on the core labor standards and compliance with social welfare legislation.

Providing logistical supplies to the Sagip Batang Msanggagawa Quick Action Teams (SBM-QATS)

- Among the activities of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program which can be funded through the 5% WInAp Funds is the conduct of Sagip Batang Manggagawa (Rescue Child Laborers) surveillance and rescue operations by the SBM Quick Action Team.

IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- *Expand social programs and dedicate additional resources to prevent children's involvement in the worst forms of child labor*

  - The DOLE implements a Kabuhayan (Livelihood) Program specifically to:

    - **Enhance** the existing livelihood undertakings of self-employed workers in the informal economy into viable and sustainable business that will provide income at par with the minimum wage earners;

- **Engage** unemployed workers in livelihood undertaking to make them productive, and the rank and file wage workers in collective enterprise/undertakings to augment their income; and

- **Restore** the lost livelihood recourses of workers who were affected by natural calamities and disasters.

The program caters to the following:

- Workers in formal economy engaged in small livelihood undertakings such as farmers, fishers folks, ambulant vendors or peddlers, ambulant service providers, vendors, tricycle or pedicab drivers and operators, among others:
- Disadvantaged/unemployed workers specially the specific group of workers that include the youth (15-30 years old), women, physically and occupationally disabled persons, indigenous people, parents of child laborers, urban poor;
- Minimum/low and wage workers seeking to augment their income;
- Returning overseas Filipino workers/members of Family Circles members; and
- Workers affected by economic restructuring and natural calamities/disasters

Under the DOLE Kabuhayan Program, following services are provided:

- Acquisition of productive resources in the form of equipment, raw materials and tools that can be used by the beneficiaries;
- Training, orientation and advisories on entrepreneurship development, business planning, productivity improvement, workers safety and heath, and networking and business alliance;
- Assistance in the establishment of common service facilities that respond to the common needs of the beneficiaries and facilities their access to more productive resources, low-cost inputs, wider market, and higher technology; and
- Advocacy in setting-up of self-help mechanism for social protection among informal workers utilizing the established common service facility.

SECTION II: CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS

A: INFORMATION REQUESTED

2) HOST GOVERNMENT/AUTHORITIES, INDUSTRY, OR NGO EFFORTS SPECIFICALLY TO COMBAT EXPLOITATIVE CHILD LABOR OR FORCED LABOR OF ADULTS OR CHILDREN IN THE PRODUCTION OF GOOD:

1. *Have any efforts been undertaken by your government, private industry, or civil society groups to address problems of child labor, forced adult labor, or forced child labor in the specific industries in which they occur? Please describe.*

With regard to child labor in the sugar industry,the Sugar Tripartite Council (STC), a national level inter-agency body composed of the DOLE, workers' groups, planters and sugar millers, passed Resolution No. 19 on 5 August 2009 to support the DOLE in its program against child labor in the sugar industry. The said Resolution calls for the conduct of an in-depth study to determine, among others, the magnitude of child labor incidence in the sugar industry.

In relation to this, the DOLE through the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns, will commission in 2011the conduct of a study which aims to: draw the demographic profile of child laborers involved in the sugar industry; identify the reasons why children work in the sugar plantations/sugar industry; find out specific activities performed by children; and identify allowable work for children aged 15 to below 18 years of age in the sugar industry.

In 2010, the DOLE issued Department Order No. 108 *Guidelines on the Implementation of the Integrated Services for Migratory Sugar Workers (I-Serve Sacadas) Project* to improve the socio-economic condition of the migratory sugar workers and their families by addressing their specific problems through capacity building interventions, strengthening enforcement of existing policies on their protection and welfare, facilitating access to social protection, and providing opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.

Under this project, the following have been accomplished:

- Conducted advocacy for the strict compliance by the sugar planters and contractors with Department Order No. 7 of 1976 (*Guidelines on the Hiring and Employment of Migratory Workers for Work in the Plantations in the Sugar Industry*) and Department Order No. 18 of 2002 (*Contracting and Sub-Contracting Arrangement)*

  As a result, the DOLE intercepted 39 minors from being transported to work in sugar farms after conduct of age verification; and denied two (2) applications by labor contractors due to non-compliance.

- Capability building activities for the migratory sugar workers (MSWs) and trainings for dependents of MSWs (LGUs) in Region 7.

5.13.11

CONVENTION 138

Philippines (Ratification: 1998)

Direct Request, 2005

Article 1 of the Convention. National Policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour. The Committee had noted with interest the information contained in the Government's report concerning the policy framework pursued and methods used to abolish child labour and progressively raise the minimum age for admission to employment. It had noted, for example, the launching of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-25, and the National Programme of Action Against Child Labour (NPACL).

The Committee notes that, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) report for the World Trade Organization General Council ('Review of the trade policies of the Philippines', 29 June 2005), child labour is a problem in the country. Indeed, the ICFTU refer to a 2001 survey, according to which 4 million children aged 5 to 17 are economically active. In the 5 to 9 years age group, 246,000 children were working in 2001; in the 10 to 14 years age group, 1.9 million children were working in 2001. The ICFTU adds that 70 per cent of child labourers live in rural areas and 63.4 per cent are boys. They work mainly in shops, markets, farming, forestry and fishing activities. Most child labourers (51.2 per cent) worked one to four hours a day, 37.3 per cent worked five to eight hours a day and 8.7 per cent worked more than eight hours per day. The ICFTU further indicates that three out of five children were exposed to an hazardous environment, including physical and chemical hazards. It also notes that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add. 259, 3 June 2005, paragraphs 78 and 79), expressed its deep concern at 'the high number of child workers (3.7 million working children) in the State party'. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (paragraph 10) also expressed its concern about the fact that 'existing mechanisms are insufficient to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children in a coherent way'. Noting the absence of information in the Government's report on the concrete measures taken under the National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, or the NPACL Labour to abolish child labour, the Committee asks the Government to redouble its efforts to progressively ensure the effective abolition of child labour, and to provide detailed information on progress made and concrete steps taken in this regard.

Reply:

The goal of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children for the period 2000-2025, more popularly known as Child 21, is to build a "child-sensitive and child-friendly society". It is meant to serve as a road map, a guide to make plans and programmes for children more focused following the provisions, principles and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The vision of Child 21 has been concretized through the formulation of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) for the period 2005-2010 aimed at reducing disparities in development indicators for children. Subsequently, there will be NPAC 2011-2015 (Catching up with the Millenium Development Goals), NPAC 2016-2020 (Sustaining the gains) and NPAC 2021-2025 (Achieving Child 21 vision). NPAC translates the vision of Child 21 into "clear, actionable and time-bound plan within a shorter , five-year time frame" taking into consideration the World Fit for Children goals, the child-related MDGs and the principles, provisions and standards of the CRC.

Under the UNICEF-assisted 6th Country Programme for Children (CPC 6) covering the period 2005-2009, conscious and deliberate efforts have been made to localize NPAC. To date, 67 percent of 81 provinces, 42 percent of 118 cities, and 29 percent of 1,510 municipalities nationwide have adopted local development plans and annual investment plans for children. These plans are the local translations of NPAC. In addition, 42 percent of provinces, 37 percent of cities, and 14 percent of municipalities have enacted local codes for children. Also in 2006, 39 percent of provinces, 17 percent of cities and 10 percent of municipalities delivered their local state of children reports. These four- local development plan for children, annual local investment plan for children, local code for children, and annual local state of children report- are the four "gifts" for children that all local government units are enjoined to provide for their children reflecting their contribution to the implementation of the CRC.

With regard to the National Program Against Child Labor (NPACL), the social partners at the national and local levels recently participated in a series of strategic planning workshops for the formulation of the NPACL's thrusts and directions for the period 2007-2015. The new strategic framework of the NPACL shall be presented by the DOLE Secretary to the NPACL stakeholders during the National Conference on Child Labor scheduled on the last week of August 2007.

Child labor elimination remains as the goal of the NPACL. Child labor concerns have been mainstreamed in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. Education for All National Action Plan and the

National Plan of Action on Decent Work. Similarly, child labor indicators have been mainstreamed in national statistics such as the Labor Force Survey and Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

Through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) Support Project to the Philippine Time Bound Program on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, more than 44,000 children had been prevented and withdrawn from the six (6) priority worst forms of child labor (mining and quarrying, pyrotechnics production, deep-sea fishing, domestic labor, sugar cane plantations and commercial sexual exploitation of children) as of April 2007 through educaton, vocational training, counseling, legal assistance and rehabilitation support. Approximately 4,400 family members generated and increased ther incomes through livelihood support in the form of micro-credit, basic literacy, vocational training and micro-enterprise start up.

Workers and employers are actively and meaningfully involved in the national action against child labor. The workers groups have included anti-child labor provision in collective bargaining agreements and have organized child labor monitors among their members. The employers group promotes child labor-free businesses and supply chains as a corporate social responsibility.

Article 2, paragraph 1. Scope of application. The Committee had noted the Government's indication that the minimum age for those who work outside an employment relationship is regulated by ordinances issued by some local government executives. It notes that the Government provides in its report, a list of ordinances issued at the local level concerning child begging, the employment of children in entertainment establishments, and the hiring of children as waitresses and waiters in restaurants and pubs. The Committee observes that these ordinances appear to regulate the employment of children in certain types of activities not falling under the Labor Code without concerning directly self-employed children. The Committee reminds the Government that the Convention applies not only to work performed under an employment contract, but to all types of work or employment, including self-employment. The Committee accordingly requests the Government to indicate the measures taken or envisaged to ensure that self-employed children benefit from the protection laid down in the Convention.

Reply:

The Department of Labor and Employment implements a Working Youth Center (WYC) Program nationwide by virtue of Presidential Letter

of Instruction No. 29 issued on May 1, 1985. It caters to employed, self-employed, and under-employed persons 15-30 years of age.

The WYC Program provides, among others, Leadership and Productivity Formation aimed to develop the leadership potentials and productivity of the working youth by : a) increasing their level of awareness on different issues and matters affecting them as workers and members of the community ; and 2) developing their skills to equip them for greater employability/productivity and fully developing their leadership potentials.

Article 2, paragraph 3. Age of completion of compulsory schooling. The Committee notes the absence of information in the Government's report on this point. The Committee once again notes that, according to UNESCO reports, school is compulsory for children aged 6 to 12 years. There accordingly appears to be a difference of three years between the age of completion of compulsory schooling (12 years of age) and the minimum age for admission to employment or work (15 years of age). The Committee considers that the requirement of Article 2(3) of the Convention is fulfilled since the minimum age for employment is not less than the age of completion of compulsory education. It is nevertheless of the view that compulsory education is one of the most effective means of combating child labour and that it is important to emphasize the necessity of linking the age of admission to employment to the age limit for compulsory education. If the two ages do not coincide, various problems may arise. If compulsory schooling comes to an end before the young persons are legally entitled to work, there may be a period of enforced idleness (see ILO: Minimum age, General Survey of the reports relating to Convention No. 138 and Recommendation No. 146 concerning minimum age, report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Report III (Part 4(B)), ILO, 67th Session, Geneva, 1981, paragraph 140). Noting the Government's indication to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/65/Add.31, 5 November 2004, paragraph 50) that 50 per cent of the 3.7 million child labourers are aged 5 to 14, the Committee once again considers it desirable to ensure compulsory education up to the minimum age for employment, as provided under Paragraph 4 of Recommendation No. 146. It therefore trusts that the Government will, in its next report, indicate the measures taken or envisaged to raise the age of completion of compulsory schooling to 15 in order to protect children under that age from engaging in economic activities.

Reply:

The Government has not taken any measure to raise the age of completion of compulsory schooling to 15. However, under the

Philippine Constitution, the State shall provide children with free elementary and secondary education. This measure help prevent children from engaging in economic activities because children have access to free education in public schools. Moreover, under Republic Act No. 9231, children below 15 years of age are prohibited from engaging in any economic activity except under these two circumstances: a) when the child's employment is under the sole responsibility of his/her parents or legal guardian and where only members of his/her family are employed; and b) where the child's employment or participation in public entertainment or information through cinema, theater, radio, television or other forms of media is essential. Under these two allowable exceptions, the child's education should not be prejudiced.

Article 4. Exclusion of limited categories of employment or work. The Committee had noted that, at the time of ratification, the Government specified a minimum age of 15 years for admission to employment or work. It had also noted that section 139(a) of the Labor Code and section 12 of Republic Act No. 7658/1993 (as amended by Act No. 9231), set a minimum age of 15 years for admission to employment. However, under the terms of section 139(a) of the Labor Code, a child under 15 years of age may bè employed when he/she works directly under the sole responsibility of his/her parents or guardian, and his/her employment does not interfere with his/her schooling. Section 12(1) of Republic Act No. 7658/1993 (as amended by Act No. 9231) authorizes a child under 15 years of age to work if he/she works under the sole responsibility of his parents or legal guardian and in an undertaking where only members of the employer's family are employed. The Committee had noted the Government's indication that work in family undertakings is one of the two exceptions to the prohibition on the employment of children below 15 years of age provided for under the Republic Act. The Committee notes the Government's indication that the organizations of employers and workers concerned were consulted prior to the adoption of Act No. 9231, concerning the exclusion of family undertakings from its scope of application.

Article 7. Minimum age for admission to light work. The Committee had noted that section 107 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code (Presidential Decree No. 603), provides that children below 16 years of age may be employed to perform light work. It had also noted the Government's indication that there is a pending bill in the 12th Congress of the Philippine Senate entitled 'An act adopting a magna carta for the working child providing for stronger deterrence and protection against child labor and imposing stiffer penalties for its violation and for other purposes'. The Government had indicated that the pending bill prescribes only the hours of work of a working child.

The Committee observes that section 12 of Act No. 7610, as amended in 1993, provides that children below 15 years shall not be employed except in family undertakings and in artistic performances provided that their health, safety, morals and development are protected. It also observes that, by virtue of sections 4 and 7 of Order No. 65-04 of 26 July 2004, the minimum age for admission to employment is 15 years except in family undertakings (which was excluded from the scope of application of the Convention by the Government at the time of ratification), and in artistic performances for which an individual authorization shall be granted. Noting the contradiction between these provisions and section 107 of the Child and Youth Welfare Code (Presidential Decree No. 603) which allows children below 16 years of age to carry out light work, the Committee asks the Government to provide clarification on the applicable legislation concerning the employment of children in light work. In this regard, the Committee recalls that, according to Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention, national laws may permit young persons of 13 to 15 years of age to be employed or work in light work. The Committee also recalls that, according to Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the competent authority shall determine what is light work and shall prescribe the number of hours during which, and the conditions in which, such employment or work may be undertaken. It also asks the Government to provide information on the adoption of 'An act adopting a magna carta for the working child providing for stronger deterrence and protection against child labour and imposing stiffer penalties for its violation and for other purposes', and to provide a copy of the Act as soon as it is adopted.

Reply:

The bill entitled "An act adoptng a magna carta for the working child providing for stronger deterrence and protection against child labour and imposing stiffer penalties for its violation and for other purposes" is one of several bills filed in the 12th Congress which was consolidated with other child labor-related bills and eventually passed into law as Republic Act No. 9231 (An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 7610, as Amended, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act") in December 2003. Under DOLE Order No. 65-04 (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9231), children under 15 years of age allowed to work under the two exemptions enumerated in Republic Act No. 9231 can work for not more that four hours a day or for not more than 20 hours a week. These children are also not allowed to work between 8 pm until 6am of the following day.

Article 9, paragraph 1, and Part V of the report form. The Committee notes the absence of information in the Government's report on the manner in which the Convention is applied in practice. It also notes that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add. 259, 3 June 2005, paragraphs 78 and 79), expressed its concern about the weak enforcement of labour laws. The Committee accordingly asks the Government to provide information on the measures taken or envisaged to improve the labour inspection system or any other enforcing bodies to ensure that national provisions giving effect to the Convention are effectively implemented. It also asks the Government to supply information on the manner in which the Convention is applied in practice, including, for example, statistical data on the employment of children and young persons, extracts from the reports of inspection services and information on the number and nature of contraventions reported.

Reply

Labor standards enforcement is a basic mandate of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to ensure compliance to labor laws and standards by employers. The DOLE has developed a Labor Standards Enforcement Framework through DOLE Administrative Order No. 296 Series of 2002 as a new approach to improve its labor inspectorate system. The Order sets new approaches in the enforcement of labor standards which include: development approach through training, education and technical assistance visit, regulatory approach through inspection, advocacy and campaign for labor standards compliance, and networking and partnership to promote labor standards compliance.

Relative to this, DOLE Order No. 57-04, Series of 2004 (Guidelines Implementing the Labor Standards Enforcement Framework) was issued towards voluntary compliance with labor standards in all establishments, workplaces, and worksites.

There is also a Checklist containing general and occupational safety and health standards which is used by the labor inspectors in the course of their visits to establishments. Included in the said checklist are labor standards on the employment of children and young workers.

Moreover, a Revised Labor Inspection Manual was also developed for a responsive labor inspectorate.

Regarding statistical data on the employment of children and young workers, the DOLE Statistical Performance Reporting System show that as of December 2006, 65 young workers were found working in the inspected establishments.

From 1998 to 2006, there were 599 rescue operations conducted by an inter-agency team composed of the DOLE, the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to remove children working in exploitative and hazardous situations. A total of 2,159 child laborers were rescued during said period wherein 1,097 are girl -children.

As of December 2006, the DOLE has closed down four (4) establishments in violation of the provisions of RA 9231 for employing 13 minors in lewd or obscene shows.

CONVENTION No. 182

Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention

Observation, 2007

The Committee notes the Government's report. It also notes the communication of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) dated 30 August 2006. It finally takes note the detailed discussion which took place at the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards of the 95th Session of the International Labor Conference in June 2006. ***It requests the Government to supply further information on the following points:***

1. Article 3 of the Convention. Worst forms of child labor. Clause(a). 1. Sale and trafficking of children. In its previous comments, the Committee had noted that the sale and trafficking of children under 18 years for labor and sexual exploitation is prohibited by the Philippine legislation under various provisions (section 7 and 18 of Act No. 7610; section 4 of the Anti-trafficking in Persons Act No. 9208 of 2003; section 59 of the Child and Youth Welfare Act). It had noted the ITUC's allegation that many children are easy targets for trafficking because of the common belief among parents that child domestic labor is the safest work for children. These children then find themselves in a situation of bonded labor where they are forced to endure exploitative work conditions because of the debts they have incurred. The ITUC added a large number of victims of trafficking were promised work as domestic workers only to be led into prostitution. XXX. ***It requests the Government to continue to provide information on the measures taken to prevent and combat the trafficking of children under 18 years, in particular for domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation, and the results achieved.***

Reply:

The government organized the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) primarily to coordinate and monitor the implementation of RA 9208. It is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Justice with membership from the Secretaries and heads of government agencies and sectoral representatives.

The government in coordination with the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. continuously undertakes initiatives to prevent and combat the trafficking of children under 18 years, in particular for domestic work through its Kasambahay (Househelpers) Program. The Kasambahay Program consists of the direct services and social protection component which includes the continued provision of the following:

a) Immediate response to child domestic workers at risk. This involves providing immediate assessment, and removal and interception during trafficking if needed, while making medical, legal, psychological assistance readily available by tapping available resources from government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs,) and employers groups within the Philippines Program against Child Labor (PPACL).

b) Psychological services in temporary shelter which provide, apart from a place of help and safety in crisis for abused child domestic workers (CDWs) referred and reached out, the opportunity to develop deeper relationships between caregivers and among other initially distrustful child domestic workers (CDWs), the opportunity to make informed choices in the future, and the opportunities to learn life skills that may help them engage in income generation. Eventually, they are reintegrated to their families or other foster institutions whichever is appropriate. Half-way houses in the Manila port area and airport are also initially part of the program to help intercepted, stranded or run-away working children who are victims of trafficking.

c) Systematic coordination with school administrations and other partners to assist child domestic workers (CDWs) who combine work and study, as a strategy to prevent them from sliding into other worst forms of child labor. This involves strengthening of existing efforts with partner schools in the areas of improving curriculum, providing immediate assistance to students in need, improving Kasambahay centers in school, and organizing activities in tandem with the Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Mangagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas (SUMAPI) and teachers.

With regard to preventing and combating the trafficking of children under 18 years, in particular for commercial sexual exploitation, the government conducts various initiatives through the Port Half Way House Project in different seaports across the country. This intervention is a joint project of Visayan Forum and Philippine Ports Authority - Gender and Development Focal Point Program. It thrives on the collection efforts of governments, business community, worker's organizations and other stakeholders inside the port. The halfway houses in the ports are unique 24-hour facilities. These centers are being managed by a team of social workers and field organizers. The following are the services offered: 1) Emergency temporary shelter towards reintegration; 2) Informational assistance about travel, employment and possible support networks; 3) Quick referral cases, including legal remediation; 4) telephone hotline counseling; 5) Regular outreach for stranded passengers; and 6) Training and advocacy to port community members such as the police, coast guard, shipping crew, porters and security guard.

At the ports, there are Anti-Trafficking Task Force composed of law enforcers like the coast guard, maritime police, and stevedoring workers group, and private companies. Together, they sustain efforts to ensure effective and coordinated responses for the investigation, rescue and removal, prosecution, healing and reintegration of the victims of human trafficking.

The Department of Labor and Employment verifies recruiters' authority to recruit as to the legality of employment agencies and workplace destinations. The Department of Justice is helping in prosecution and providing guidance to Port Task Forces. The Department of Social Welfare and Development helps in repatriation, and reintegration of intercepted victims and potential victims of child trafficking. Their regional offices help locate and coordinate with the family of the children. This unique cooperation has been declared a Global Best Practice by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and the US State Department in its 2005 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Aside from the Visayan Forum, the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) Philippines have also undertaken initiatives to address commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). ECPAT Philippines is part of a global network of organizations and individuals working together to end CSEC. Led by ECPAT-Philippines, the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), a coalition of child rights organizations, government agencies and individuals, conducted a campaign against trafficking from 2003 to 2005. It reached tens of thousands of people around the country and provided a venue for children and young people's participation through various local activities.

In cooperation with Asia Acts against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs), more than 30 provinces were reached through province-wide training activities against child trafficking. This campaign, involving government social workers, police, principals, doctors and nurses, teachers, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and religious personnel, enabled participants to conduct over 1,000 community education sessions in villages and schools. As of 2007, approximately 3,500 community education sessions have been conducted in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines. Consequently, many cases of child trafficking were discovered, and these have been referred to the members of the networks and other organizations for investigation, rescue and provisions of services. Likewise, as a result of Asia ACTs' Campaign against Child Trafficking since 2001, the government signed in 2006 Presidential Proclamation 1172 declaring December 12 as the National Day against Child Trafficking.

In 2006, ECPAT launched the Make Information Technology Safe (Make-IT Safe) campaign to address cybercrime issues like child pornography, cyber prostitution and cybersex operations. Through the Make-IT Safe campaign, ECPAT was instrumental in the adoption of the first Code of Conduct of Internet Café Operators of the Philippines, signed by internet café owners from various parts of the country. As part of the Make-

IT Safe campaign, the ECPAT launched in 2007 the ECPAT I-café, an internet shop which involves the participation of children and youth.

2. Article 3 of the Convention. Worst forms of child labour. 2. Compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. XXX *While welcoming the measures adopted by the Government to demobilize and rehabilitate children affected by armed conflict, the Committee requests the Government to take prompt and effective action to ensure that the practice of forced or compulsory recruitment of children under 18 years of age in armed conflict, directly or indirectly, is eliminated both in the national armed forces and in rebel groups. It also requests the Government to continue to provide information on the effective and time-bound measures taken to rehabilitate and integrate children affected by the armed conflict, and to indicate how many of these children under 18 years have been rehabilitated and reintegrated in their communities through such measures.*

Reply:

The government continues to pursue a comprehensive peace process to address armed conflict with rebel groups. This presently involves the implementation of a National Peace Plan, which is Chapter 14 of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2004-2010). Among the efforts being undertaken with significant contribution to preventing and stopping the recruitment of children in armed hostilities are as follows:

(a) The peace process with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which includes security through cessation of hostilities, rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, and negotiations on the issue of ancestral domain.

(b) Implementation of the interim peace agreements with two (2) local communist movements, particularly in terms of rehabilitation of conflict-affected communities, cessation of hostilities, reintegration, and protection of civil and political rights particularly of the alleged political offenders and political prisoners.

(c) Continuous monitoring of and advocacy on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) between the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

(d) Complementary measures to reduce the level of violence on the ground such as support to local and indigenous peacemaking and peacekeeping

mechanisms including peace zones, and support to the implementation and civilian monitoring of ceasefire agreements.

(e) Efforts to complete the implementation of existing final peace agreements with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA).

(f) Efforts to mainstream former rebels through reintegration and rehabilitation programmes, including President Arroyo's issuance in March 2007 of Administrative Order No. 172, creating the National Committee on Social Integration under the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). The Social Integration Programme includes the process of arms management, forces management, and the transition of former rebels to civilian life.

(g) Rehabilitation, development and healing of conflict-affected through various local and ODA-funded programmes and projects.

Regarding displaced children as a result of armed conflict, various programmes and projects are being implemented to ensure that these children are protected and have access to basic services, including Days of Peace (DoP) campaign. The agreement with the MILF to conduct the Days of Peace campaign has been a result of continuing CRC education and awareness-raising with partners on the ground involving LGUs, NGOs and faith-based organizations. With support from UNICEF and with the involvement of OPAPP, Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Education, the DoP campaign launched in April 2007 aimed at creating a corridor of peace and reaching out to around 250,000 under-five-year-old children, 50,000 children less than one year old, and 60,000 mothers in 70 conflict-affected barangays in Mindanao. The services provided include immunization, micronutrient supplementation, de-worming, breastfeeding counseling, birth registration and distribution of basic school supplies. As a rolling campaign, areas of coverage were expanded in other peace agreement areas and the UNICEF-assisted 6th Country Programme for Children areas in Luzon and Visayas.

Also, under the Government of the Philippines (GOP)-UNICEF 6th Country Programme for Children covering the period 2005-2009, special protection measures and basic social services to boys and girls affected by armed conflict have been provided and supported. As of mid-2007, more than 20,000 children in 64 conflict-affected barangays (45 in Mindanao, 15 in Visayas and 4 in Luzon) had been provided basic services such as health and nutrition, early childhood care, basic education, and technical-vocational education and training. Other measures undertaken were youth organizing, rights advocacy, community-based peace education, and disaster management. Moreover, in the conflict-ridden regions of Sulu, Samar, Surigao del Sur, Quezon, North Cotabato and Maguindanao over 10,000 families who were displaced

because of escalating hostilities between government forces and non-state actors were given emergency relief and psychosocial support services (e.g. art therapy); 3,000 pupils received school packs; and around 60,000 internally displaced persons were provided with medicines and water purifiers. The provisions of these services were facilitated through NGO partners involved in community organizing in rural, remote and hard-to-reach areas. A sustained CO strategy helps empower disadvantaged families and build community resilience and capacity to cope with emergency situations.

2. Article 3, clause (d), and Article 4, paragraph 1. Hazardous work and child domestic work. XXX ***The Committee expresses the firm hope that the Domestic Workers' Bill (Batas Kasambahay), which would specifically address the situation of domestic workers, will be enacted soon. It requests the Government to provide information on any developments made in this regard.***

Reply:

The Domestic Workers' Bill (Batas Kasambahay) has been filed during the 14th Congress and is currently under deliberation by the House Committee on Labor and Employment.

3. Article 5. Monitoring mechanisms. The Committee notes with interests that the Government has adopted a number of measures to monitor the application of the Convention and enforce it. XXX ***The Committee welcomes these measures and requests the Government to continue providing information on the impact of these measures on eliminating the trafficking of children.***

Reply:

The IACAT continues to undertake different projects geared towards the elimination of trafficking in persons in the Philippines, prevention of the occurrence of trafficking, the protection and rehabilitation of victims and the conviction of trafficking offenders. The projects include, among others, the following:

a. **Development of Manual on the Law Enforcement and Prosecution of Trafficking in Persons Cases;**
b. **Development of Manual on the Recovery and Reintegration of Victim-Survivors of Trafficking (c/o DSWD);**
c. **Development of Standards Orientation Module on Trafficking in Persons for Service Providers**
d. **Ninoy Aquino International Airport Task Force Against Trafficking;**
e. **Development of Model Local Ordinance on Anti-Trafficking in Persons Project;**

f. **Development of Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of Trafficked Children; and**
g. **Creation of Regional Inter-Agency Committees Against Trafficking**

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), through the Bureau of Women and Young Workers (BWYW), conducted in February 2009 a series of advocacy orientations on RA 9231, RA 9208 and other child related laws for 270 barangay (village) captains. This was followed by a series of training for labor inspectors, hearing officers and sheriffs on the effective enforcement of RA 9231 and RA 9208 in March 2009. These activities aimed to strengthen the capacities of law enforcers and other implementers to effectively utilize and enforce anti-child labor laws towards the prevention and elimination of child labor and child trafficking.

4. Article 7, paragraph 1. Penalties. 1. Trafficking. The Committee notes the ITUC's allegation that while the Philippine Government has passed the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, implementation is still a challenge. Thus, while the new law has increased penalties for child trafficking, there have been only three convictions to date, all of which relate to prostitution.

Reply:

As of October 2009, the IACAT obtained fifteen (15) convictions for violation of RA 9208, to wit:

a. **One conviction in Manila on September 29, 2009 – Two persons were sentenced t life imprisonment and Php 2M in fines for violation of Sec. 4 in relation to Section 6(c) and 10(c) (Qualified Trafficking).**

b. **One conviction in Cebu City on March 9, 2009 – One person was sentenced to life imprisonment and Php 3M in fines for violation of Section 4 in relation to Section 6(c) and 10(c) (Qualified Trafficking).**

c. **One conviction in Parañaque City on November 27, 2008 – Two persons were sentenced to twenty years of imprisonment and to pay a fine of Php 1M each, for violation of Section 4(a).**

d. **One conviction in Zamboanga City on October 28, 2008 – Two persons were sentenced to twenty years of imprisonment and to pay a fine of Php 1M for violation of Section 4(a).**

e. **One conviction in Batangas City on March 10, 2008 – One person was sentenced to life imprisonment for violation of Section 4(a) in relation to Section 6(a) and Section 10(c).**

f. One conviction in Davao City on July 27, 2007 – One person sentenced to life imprisonment and to pay the sum of Php 2M in fines for violation of Section 6(a).

g. One conviction in Cebu City on July 20, 2007 – Two persons were sentenced to life imprisonment and to pay Php 3M in fine for violation of Section 4 in relation to Section 6(c) and 10(c).

h. One conviction in Zamboanga City on March 27, 2007 – One person sentenced to life imprisonment and to pay Php 6M in fine for violation of Section 4 in relation to Section 6(c) and 10(c).

l. Four convictions in Quezon City on December 8, 2005 – Two Spouses were sentenced to four life imprisonment and to pay Php 8M in fines for violation of Section 4 in relation to Section 6(a) and (c)

j. One conviction in Zamboanga City on November 29, 2005 – Three persons were sentenced to life imprisonment and pay Php 2M in fines for violation of Section 4 in relation to Section 6(c) and 10(c).

k. Two convictions in Batangas City on November 15 and 28, 2005, respectively - Two persons, each was allowed to plead guilty for violation of Section 11 (Use of Trafficked Persons). They were sentenced to render six (6) months of community service.

DIRECT REQUEST

1. Article 7, paragraph 2. Effective and time-bound measures. Clause (a). Prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour. XXX 2. Education. The Committee had previously noted that schooling is compulsory and free for children aged 6-12 years. XXX ***the Committee requests the Government to provide information on the impact of these measures on providing free basic education to all children, especially the vulnerable groups of children and those living in remote areas. It also requests the Government to provide updated statistical data on school attendance and school drop-out rates.***

Reply:

Statistical data on school attendance provided by the Department of Education (Dep Ed) revealed that net enrolment ratio (NER) or participation rate at the elementary level for school year 2006-2007 was 83.22 percent, lower by 0.18 percent from the previous school year 2005-2006 which 84.4 percent. At the secondary level, net enrolment rate for school year 2006-2007 was 58.59 percent, higher by 0.05 percent from the previous school year 2005-2006 which was 58.54 percent.

On school drop-outs or school leavers, statistical data showed that for school year 2006-2007, there was 6.37 percent school leavers which is 0.96 percent lower from the previous school year for the elementary level which is 7.33 percent. At the secondary level, there was 8.55 percent school leavers for the school year 2006-2007, lower by 3.96 percent from the previous school year which is 12.51 percent.

2. Article 7, paragraph 2. *Effective and time-bound measures. Clause* (a). Prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour. XXX 4. Children engaged in drug trafficking. XXX ***It also once again asks the Government to provide information on any similar programmes taken or envisaged in other cities of the Philippines to prevent the use of children for drug trafficking.***

Reply:

The Philippine government recently launched in March 2009 the program Batang Iwas Droga (BIDA) or Kids Avoiding Drugs. This is a nationwide anti-drug abuse campaign which seeks to educate children between the ages of six and 12 years old on the hazardous effects of drug addiction. Primarily, this is being done through the holding of entertainment shows, the distribution of information materials, and the formation of the BIDA Kids Club. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) as the lead agency has teamed up with the Philippine Charity Sweepstake

Office (PCSO) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in undertaking the program.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) also adopted a number of strategies to address the drug problem and these include supply reduction, demand reduction, and civic awareness, among others. Supply reduction takes away the drugs from potential users through effective law enforcement and regulatory compliance. Demand reduction is geared towards reducing the users' demand for drugs and other substances through preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and research. Preventive education is done in schools, in workplaces, and in the communities. Civic awareness includes massive advocacy and IEC campaigns on the evils of drugs.

For preventive education and civic awareness campaigns, PDEA has reached the following in 2006: (a) 3,398 students and youth; (b) 3,240 out-of-school youth; (c) 831 barangay and community leaders; and (d) 153 persons from various professional associations. It has also launched the following initiatives:

(a) *Project Himagsik*, which brings together government agencies with youth and student organizations, religious groups and faith communities, and the rest of civil society to generate public awareness on the evils of illegal drugs;

(b) *Barkadahan Kontra Droga*, launched in early 2004 by the Dangerous Drugs Board to prevent young people from involvement with illegal drugs and other substances;

(c) *Kontra Droga 2004*, which was the government's general anti-illegal drugs campaign which brings together various groups and agencies in the war against drugs.

Other government agencies involved in drug abuse prevention and control include the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). DepEd has coordinated with DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to provide education, training and awareness-raising programmes for in-school children and young people. DOLE, on the other hand, has been responsible in implementing workplace-based prevention and control of drugs, alcohol and other substances. The Department of Social Worker and Development (DSWD) has been implementing the following programmes: (a) Family Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (FDAPP), which aims to educate and prepare families and communities on the effects of drug abuse following relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Drug Act of 2002; and (b) Special Drug Education Center (SDEC), being piloted in Region 5 and NCR, is a community-based facility that promotes developmental services for out-of-school youth and street children as preventive strategy drug abuse.

The Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP), an NGO catering to the needs of street children, implements the Street Education Program (SEP) wherein about 2,500 street children are helped annually through interventions like education, particularly alternative education; vocational skills training and financial education; health and nutrition services; counseling and psychosocial interventions, including referrals; legal protection assistance; leadership development, values formation, and building self-esteem; and seminar-workshops on human sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention, substance abuse prevention education, among others. Street Education Program (SEP) effectively saves and improves lives of street children who when left unattended can become vulnerable victims of drug abuse and drug pushing, juvenile offending, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, pornography, and prostitution. These interventions are provided by a pool of thirty (30) trained street educators – some were former street children, others are professionally trained social workers – operating in 26 locations in Manila, Pasay, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, Quezon City, and other parts of Metro Manila. Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP) maintains close linkages and collaboration with both community-based programmes such as the Families and Children for Empowerment and Development (FCED), the Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC) as well as center-based programmes like Sun for All Children, Pangarap Shelter, and Tahanan Sta. Luisa. Beginning in 2005, the street organizing and street education initiatives of CHAP have been reinforced by the introduction of two Mobile Education Vans (MEVs).

3. Part V of the report form. Application of the Convention in practice. XXX ***The Committee requests the Government to continue providing information on the worst forms of child labour, including information on the nature, extent and trends of those forms of child labour, the number of children covered by the measures giving effect to the Convention, the number and nature of infringements reported, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and penal sanctions applied.***

Reply:

The *Sagip Batang Manggagawa* (Rescue the Child Laborer) mechanism has been operational in 16 regions around the country. From 1993 to 2008, a total of 806 rescue operations were conducted with a total of 2,711 child laborers rescued. As of June 2009, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has closed down 15 establishments pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9231 and Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9208 for employing minors in lewd or obscene shows. The establishments, which involved 46 child labor victims, include 10 establishments in DOLE-National Capital Region (NCR), four (4) in DOLE-Region VII and one (1) in DOLE-Region VI.