

PRESS RELEASE

DATE POSTED : AUGUST 8,2016

EMB CARAGA CONDUCTS SYMPOSIUM ON DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The Environmental Management Bureau Caraga Region conducts Symposium on Drug – Free Workplace at EMB Conference Room, Ambago, Butuan City on August 8,2016.

Drug abuse is a widespread and serious problem in society today, and there is a very good likelihood that in a workplace, one or more workers are into drug abuse. This is tough for employers as drug abuse in the workplace may cause significant physical, mental or social dysfunction that affects not only the user but also the other people around the drug user including his co-employees. Thus, it is in the best interest of the employer to create and maintain a drug-free workplace.



The governing law on dangerous drugs in the Philippines is Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the “*Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002*”. This law laid down an extensive legal framework for drug enforcement and imposes stiffer penalties for drug related crimes. This law also mandates, among others, the development of drug free workplace policies and programs in the public/private sector, in accord with the policy of the State, which is the promotion of drug-free workplaces

In accordance with the mandate of RA 9165, the Department of Labor and Employment formulated and issued Department Order No. 53-03, which provides for the Guidelines for the Implementation of a Drug-Free Workplace Policies and Programs for the Public/Private Sector. DO 53-03 provides that workplace policies and programs on drug abuse prevention and control to be adopted by government offices/companies shall include, among others, the component of random drug testing for head officer and employees.

This random drug testing is an important component in ensuring a safe working environment, as it is beyond question that any employee under the influence of drugs cannot possibly continue doing his duties without posing a serious threat to the lives and property of his co-employee and even his employer. The Supreme Court, in fact, has taken judicial notice of scientific findings that drug abuse can damage the mental faculties of the user. Employees who are into dangerous drugs pose serious problems to the health, well being and productivity of everyone around them in the workplace.

Atty. Rambo F. Quico, legal Officer of PDEA Caraga , discussed the salient features of R.A. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. He focused on Sections 11 and 15 (pertaining to Possession and Use of Dangerous Drugs, respectively) for a better understanding of the punishable acts and its corresponding penalties..END/ JAT