



PRESS STATEMENT
(for immediate release)

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**TUCP supports NEDA;
higher wages for “comfortable living”**

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines expressed support to the need for higher wages for “comfortable living”.

The National Economic Development Authority’s (NEDA) Ambisyon Natin 2040 survey showed that most Filipinos aspire for a “simple and comfortable life” where they can afford to buy a car, a medium-sized house, send their children to college, regularly spend leisure time with their family and friend and take occasional trips around the country.

“It is time for workers to raise their share of real gains of the economy,” said TUCP President Ruben Torres.

Torres said: “Hindi na pwede na barya lang ang para sa mga manggagawa! Hindi na pwedeng employers, managers, at supervisors lang may comfortable living habang yung mga gumagawa ay nganga lang.”

(Torres said “a pittance for workers’ wage increases is not acceptable anymore. It is unacceptable that only employers, manager, and supervisors are enjoying comfortable living, while workers who produce receive very little.”)

The NEDA survey said that a family of four must have a gross monthly income of at least P120,000 at 2015 prices to afford things for comfortable living.

Earlier in a policy meeting between the TUCP and DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello, the biggest trade union confederation expressed support to the P100 national across the board wage increase proposed by Undersecretary Joel Maglunsod.

“Across the board wage increases and not only for minimum wage earners is possible,” said Torres.

“The Supreme Court has decided years back that an across the board is legal. The SC has not struck this down. The practice of Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) of not allowing across the board wage increase comes from a change in policy, not a change in law.” said Torres.

Meanwhile, TUCP is participating in the DOLE-led national dialogues and consultations to address the issue of “endo” and promote security of employment.

“Our affiliate national labor federations are utilizing collective bargaining negotiations to help contractual workers get regular employment. We have been successful in some. TUCP will continue with this approach to help the government and workers achieve decent work,” said Torres. ###

TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

*TUCP is the biggest confederation of trade unions in the Philippines with 1.2 million members from 40 affiliated national labor federations. Its most representative labor organization character is evidenced by its range of members **in all sectors**, from agriculture to industry to services, those in public service, including public school teachers, the largest informal sector organization in the Philippines, the largest organization of OFWs, as well as the first registered unions of workers in call center and BPOs (business process outsourcing), the largest federation of hotel and restaurant workers union, and the largest federation of farmers unions.*

TUCP’s representations extend to the ASEAN, where the TUCP-led ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC) is implementing a wide-range tripartite-based project to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers.

TUCP is an affiliate of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and its Asia-Pacific Regional Organization (ITUC-AP). TUCP serves as Secretariat of the ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC) which is composed of 18 National Centers in 9 ASEAN countries, representing five million workers.