



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
TIN 000-784-336

MEMO-ADM-2020-Apr-20

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 21
Series of 2019-2020



TO : ALL STAKEHOLDERS

FROM : HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator

DATE : 14 April 2020

SUBJECT : DOLE's Reply to SRA's request relative to Social Amelioration Program (SAP) for Sugar workers pursuant to Republic Act No. 6982

In connection to our request for assistance and intervention of the Department of Labor and Employment relative to the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) for workers in the Sugarcane Industry affected by the preventive measures on COVID-19, the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment issued a Memorandum dated 6 April 2020 to the different DOLE Regional Directors to coordinate with the sectoral representatives of the District Tripartite Councils (DTC's) and encourage the sugar industry stakeholders to consider the early release and distribution by the Mills, Planters' Associations and individual sugar planters of the CBF for the current crop-year.

DOLE is also finalizing the provision of Financial assistance amounting to One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00) for each of the 49,267 households of Sugarcane Industry workers. Hence, Sugarcane Industry workers in the ten (10) Sugarcane-producing provinces shall be entitled to the said Financial assistance of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00) which will be over and above any other financial aid provided to them by their own Local Government Units and Government agencies/entities providing for COVID-19 related financial program.

Rest assured that I will continue to make representations to concerned Government agencies for the welfare of the Sugarcane Industry and its stakeholders.

Attached herewith is our Letters to DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III dated March 26 and April 2, 2020 for your perusal.

For your information and guidance.



Website: <http://www.sra.gov.ph> Email Address: srahead@sra.gov.ph
Tel. No.: (632)929-3633, (632)455-2135, (632)455-3376



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MEMO-ADM-2020-Mar- 62

26 March 2020

Silvestre H. Bello III
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

Dear Secretary Bello:

Greetings!

During these exigent and trying times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, many sugarcane industry, sugarcane farmers and informal workers, considered most vulnerable to the effects of the Enhanced Community Quarantine, struggle for their daily subsistence.

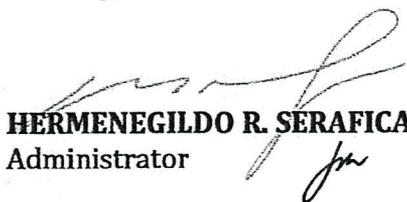
The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) funds are limited and cannot support all the sugarcane industry workers affected by the crisis. Hence, we are herewith endorsing to your office a letter from the Balayan Mill District seeking assistance for financial support and relief goods for their farmers. However, this plight of the Balayan farmers is not unique to Balayan alone instead the same may be said for other Sugarcane producing provinces.

Therefore, in behalf of the sugarcane industry stakeholders, the SRA seeks the assistance of the Department of Labor and Employment through the Social Amelioration Fund in providing relief and financial assistance to the sugarcane industry workers affected by the COVID - 19 Health Crisis all throughout the entire nation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your prompt action regarding this matter.

Attached herewith is a report from the SRA Mill District Officer for Balayan.

Sincerely,


HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator



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MEMO-ADM-2020-Mar-_____

2 April 2020

SILVESTRE H. BELLO III

Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

Dear Secretary Bello:

Greetings!

This is to respectfully reiterate our request in behalf of the sugarcane industry, stated in our letter, dated March 26, 2020, for relief and financial assistance sourced from the Sugarcane Industry Amelioration Fund through DOLE for the Sugarcane industry workers whose livelihood have been affected by the COVID-19 national emergency.

Due to the lockdown being implemented by various LGUs, some planters and mills had to stop farming and milling operations respectively. Our stakeholders are asking SRA for assistance but providing financial and livelihood assistance to all the sugarcane industry workers is beyond SRA's mandate. In light of this, may we request that the Social Amelioration Cash Bonus for sugarcane industry workers be released in advance and may we also request for an update on what assistance the DOLE has given to the sugarcane industry workers so we may respond to their queries with information on what they can avail from DOLE.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator

Cc : **ATTY MA. KARINA PERIDA-TRAYVILLA**
Director
Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC)



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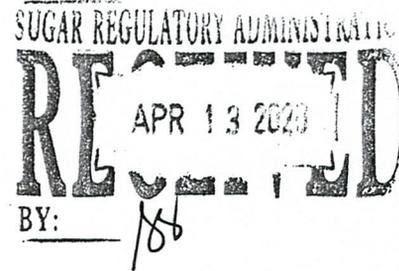


Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila



April 8, 2020

HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator
Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)
Sugar Center Building, North Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City



Attention: **ATTY. ROLAND B. BELTRAN**
SRA Representative to the Sugar Tripartite Council (STC)

Dear **Administrator Serafica**:

May we provide your office with the following information regarding the concerns raised in your letter dated April 2, 2020, relative to the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) for Workers in the Sugar Industry and the possible intervention to the workers affected by the preventive measures on Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19):

1. On the request to advance the release of Cash Bonus Fund (CBF) under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) for Sugar Workers, pursuant to Republic Act No. 6982

It is specified under Rule VI Section 3.1.a. of the DOLE Department Order No. 114-11 or the Amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 6982 that the mills, planters' associations or cooperatives shall release the CBF, including any and all incomes or interests derived therefrom, to the unaffiliated and affiliated planters, respectively, based on the usual practice in the mill district but in no case shall be it be later than 180 days from end of the milling season of the district.

As discussed in the said IRR, the sugar industry stakeholders have the flexibility to determine and agree among themselves on the schedule of release of the CBF from the mills and planters' cooperation / cooperative. However, in response to your request, the Department issued a memorandum instructing the concerned DOLE Regional Offices to coordinate with the District Tripartite Councils (DTCs), the regional counterpart of the STC, and encourage the industry stakeholders to consider the early release and distribution by the mills, planters' associations and individual sugar planters of CBF, given the current situation of the workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attached for your reference is the said memorandum.

2. On the Financial Assistance to Sugar Industry Workers Affected by the Preventive Measures on COVID-19

The Department, in direct coordination with the STC, prepared a project proposal for the provision of financial assistance to sugar industry workers affected by the preventive measures on COVID-19, using the available SAP fund. However, due to limited available funds, the project may only provide financial assistance amounting to one thousand pesos (PHP 1,000.00) each to 49,267 households of sugar industry workers in the ten (10) sugar producing regions. The project will be

implemented through the same mechanism under the Cash Bonus Program of the SAP or by direct administration of the Department.

The project proposal is currently on the final stage of review by the STC. Once the proposal and STC Resolution have been approved by the Council members, the Department will transfer the approved budget to the concerned DOLE Regional Offices for the immediate implementation of the project.

Should you have further queries or clarifications regarding the SAP, your staff may coordinate with the Workers' Social Amelioration and Development Division of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns at email address: mail.wsadd@gmail.com.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary