

ALU Statement
Released on: 25 September 2012

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To The Parliamentary Coordinators of the Mexican Congress:

We are the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), the biggest confederation of workers' unions across various industries in the Philippines. We are also a partner of the IndustriALL Global Unions that represents 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries in 139 other countries around the world.

We write to convey our grave concern about a pending labor reform measure introduced by President Felipe Calderon on the table for your consideration and approval under a new preferential fast-track process.

We are urging you to suspend approval of the proposal until a national consultation particularly with the working Mexican sisters and brothers in the unions are held and until their aspirations are integrated and ensured in it.

While we admire the noble intent of President Calderon and the Institutional Revolutionary to introduce drastic reforms in the labor sector in the country, however, we learned that their proposal contains provisions onerous and disadvantageous to all workers and to the trade union movement in Mexico. It is inconsistent with workers' human and labor rights defined in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conventions 87 and 98 and shared among every ILO members.

We also share the legitimate anxieties of our sisters and brothers in Mexican unions that once the proposal is approved by you and becomes into law, the said measure would:

- (1) take away the minimum wage,
- (2) take away control of work hours and shifts away from the collective bargaining process and relegates the role to management,
- (3) legalize the existing culture of temporary and short-term labor contracting'
- (4) allow management to negotiate different wages and working conditions from workers in the collective bargaining contract with other workers,
- (5) make it easier for companies to use small enterprises as fronts for outsourcing
- (6) make difficult to recognize legal strikes, and
- (7) deny recognition, in part or in whole, of elected union officials

With these, it is very clear the current version of proposal needs amendments and revisions that Mexican workers needed to improve their lives and become productive.

We therefore urge you to delay the approval of the proposed measure until it contains the human and labor rights aspirations of Mexican workers and unions.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Gerard R. Seno
National Executive Vice President

FOR MORE INFORMATION & INTERVIEWS, CONTACT:

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ABOUT ALU--BWI

Founded by dock workers in 1954, the Associated Labor Unions (ALU) had since been the country's pioneer in championing the ideals of free trade unionism. Along with its affiliates, partners here and abroad, and an alliance with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), ALU has been steadfast advocate of the plight of the toiling masses working in various industries and sectors.

The ALU partners with Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) in working towards asbestos ban and phase out in the Philippines. The partnership works to eliminate asbestos-related diseases found in public and private infrastructures and buildings such as homes, schools, work places, churches, malls, including power plants.

As a pioneering unions in the Philippines, the ALU works toward ensuring the rights, interests and welfare of regular and non-regular workers and makes sure these are promoted and protected i.e. security of tenure, freedom of association and collective bargaining or collective negotiation and providing limits in the duration and renewal of employment contracts of non-regular workers to enable them enjoy the benefits accorded to regular workers. ###