



PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONGRATULATES PHILIPPINES ON LABOR REFORMS AND IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

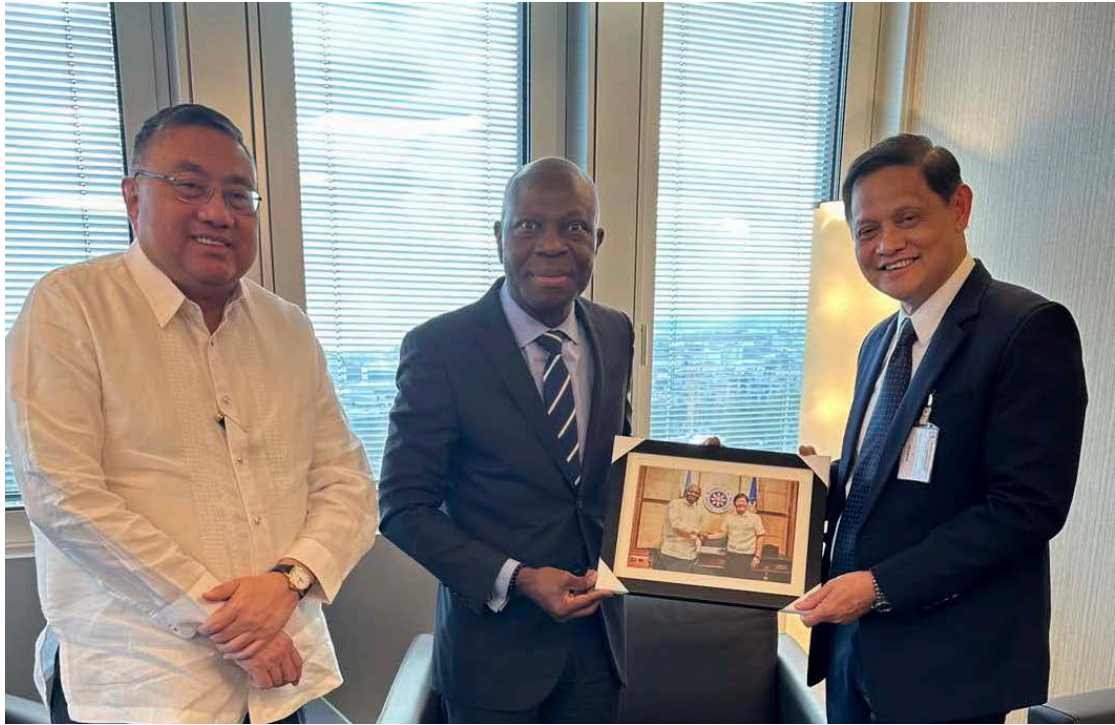


Permanent Representative Carlos D. Sorreta calls on Director General Gilbert Houngbo (middle) of the International Labour Organization together with Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr. (right) of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva.

19 February 2024, Geneva, Switzerland - International Labour Organization (ILO) Director General Gilbert Houngbo congratulated the Philippines on the decrease in the unemployment rate of the country and other labor-related reforms in a meeting today at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva as Permanent Representative Carlos D. Sorreta and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr shared that unemployment rate in the country is down to 3.8%.

Ambassador Sorreta added that, with the creation of the Department of Migrant Workers, the DOLE will now be able to focus on domestic labor affairs as well as Philippine engagement in the ILO. Undersecretary Bitonio highlighted that DOLE will be more active in ILO while initiating reforms that will strengthen domestic employment. The discussions also involved the Philippines' participation in ILO Expert Groups as well as leadership in the chairing of key meetings.

DG Houngbo thanked the Philippines for its strong proposals in the WHO pandemic treaty negotiations in the area of health and care workforce which aligns with ILO's own recommendations.



Director General Gilbert Houngbo of ILO receives a framed photo of his courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr during a visit to Manila in 2023 from DOLE Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr as Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta looks on.

ILO is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It works with governments, employers and workers to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

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