

# 21,000 workers up for regularization by end of 2018

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BUTUAN CITY – In an effort to end contractualization, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) aims to regularize some 21,000 workers in Northeastern Mindanao or Caraga region and in Northern Mindanao (Region 10) by the end of this year.

DOLE 13 Regional Director Chona M. Mantilla told The Manila Bulletin that the random validation of voluntary regularization by the Mediation-Arbitration and Legal Service Unit of DOLE Caraga Region 13 is ongoing in various companies, particularly construction, agricultural, mining firms, and food companies in Caraga region.

“We are planning to hit 6,000 workers to be regularized in Caraga region by the end of 2018,” the region’s DOLE chief said.

As of April 2018, about 2,500 workers, mostly from the mining companies were already regularized, she said.

“More are still coming, most of these are still undergoing validation,” said Mantilla. She added that DOLE will be coming out with the list of companies that are set to regularize their workers after the Mediation-Arbitration and Legal Service Unit has completed their validation.

Meanwhile, the regional office of DOLE 10 is also attempting to hit their target of 15,000 workers to be regularized in various companies in Northern Mindanao or Region 10 by the end of 2018.

In their all-out campaign to end contractualization, the DOLE 13 already regularized 2,119 as of April 2018 from the different companies in the region.

More than 15 companies were already sent notice for compliance order for regularization as the agency has stepped up the region-wide campaign for the companies to comply, DOLE 10 Technical Director JV Vasallo added.

Through Labor Advisory No. 06, series of 2017, the DOLE Caraga Region 13 and DOLE 10 in Northern Mindanao thru the Mediation-Arbitration has intensified its efforts in eradicating unlawful contractual arrangements by encouraging establishments to voluntarily regularize their employees and ensure their rights to labor standards benefits, self-organization and security of tenure.