

Media Release March 18, 2020

Paid quarantine leave, most effective to limit people from leaving home for work

“We are asking the government to guarantee the income of workers. We want guarantees that the quarantine leave workers and employees are taking will be considered paid leaves and will not be deducted from their sick leaves and 13th month pay and other existing benefits.”

This was the statement of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) national labor center today on the financial assistance announced by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

“While we welcome the financial assistance that will be given by DOLE and hope that it will be released immediately, we understand that this package breaks down to only P167 a day for 30 days. This is very far from enough to sustain workers and their families. We hope that the DOLE and other government agencies will come up with more actions to ease the economic burdens heavily weighing on Filipinos now that they’re unable to work because of the lockdown,” Labog said. The group is seeking a dialogue with DOLE.

The group also applauded the efforts of Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto to ensure that the salaries of all Pasig City Hall employees and workers continues despite the de facto work stoppage caused by Luzon-wide lockdown. The young mayor also continues to implement measures that ensure that medical and social welfare frontlines will be able to continue their work by providing them transportation support. “These are the measures of a leader who cares for their constituents. We greatly appreciate the actions and initiatives of Mayor Vico, as well as the efforts of the leaders of other LGUs in Metro Manila to provide for their constituents during these trying times. We continue to appeal to all LGUs to pursue initiatives that will protect the welfare and guarantee the survival of workers and their families. We call on them to negotiate with managements and employers on the behalf of workers that all workers – regular and contractual – be given their salaries and benefits complete and uncut during the whole duration of the lockdown,” said KMU chairperson Elmer Labog.

Reference: Elmer Labog, KMU chairperson, +63 908 163 6597