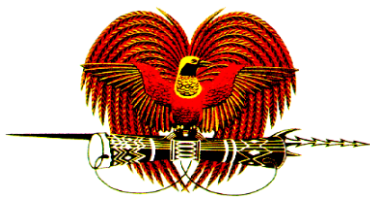


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International Labour Organization
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SNAP SHOT OF THE JOINT CHILD LABOUR/COMMON RULE ROADSHOW

03 APRIL – 03 MAY 2013

INTRODUCTION:

This Report provides a brief snapshot of the Joint Child Labour/Common Rule Road-show, which was conducted by the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations and the ILO in six provinces throughout the country. The Report highlights the major findings and concerns of the stakeholders in the provinces and communities on the issues of child labour and their recommendations, as well as forwards on how they want these issues to be addressed.

A more detailed Report, covering province-specific consultations will be tabled to the Secretary as well as the Head of the EU Delegation in Papua New Guinea, as part of the KRA1 of the Child Labour Project, which relates to awareness and promotion of the issues of child labour in the country.

Important to note are the key recommendations from the Road-show, which indicate the level of concern for on-going support and sustainability of the programmes and plans to address the issues of child labour, whilst they are still at the infant stages.

ROAD SHOW ADMINISTRATION:

The Child Labour Road-show was jointly funded by the ILO, through the TACKLE Project and the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations. A six member Team ran the Road-show, which comprised of the ILO National Coordinator for PNG, the Acting Executive Manager - Industrial Relations & International Cooperation, the Acting Executive Manager - Labour Administration, the DLIR Child Labour Focal Person, the DLIR Decent Work Coordinator and a Security Consultant, with support being provided to the Team by TACKLE Fiji Coordinator and the

TACKLE (PNG) External Collaborator in Mount Hagen, the ILO-SPC HIV Project Manager in Lae and the Deputy Secretary – Policy in Madang.

The Road-show was implemented in 6 provinces, starting in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province, through to Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Lae, Morobe Province, Madang, Madang Province, Kimbe, West New Britain Province and Kokopo, East New Britain Province, from 03 April 2013 – 03 May 2013.

ROAD-SHOW FOCUS/OBJECTIVES

The key objectives and focus of the Joint Child Labour/Common Rule Workshop was to:

- ❖ Create awareness and promote the issues of child labour as a growing problem in PNG;
- ❖ To highlight the legal frameworks on child labour;
- ❖ To work with participants in coming up with the National Hazardous Child Labour List (NHCL);
- ❖ To get feedback from participants on the issues of child labour in the provinces, their causes and how they can be addressed;
- ❖ To work with participants in drawing up their provincial way forwards in addressing child labour;
- ❖ To highlight the initiatives and activities/programmes that the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations is progressing as part of the sustainability measures to institutionalize child labour into its functions and mandates; and
- ❖ Promote and create awareness on the newly drafted PNG National Common Rule and its linkages to the child labour.

CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE COMMON RULE AND CHILD LABOUR

The PNG National Common Rule was seen as the best legal approach to go in terms of accommodating provisions from the Elimination of the Worst forms of Child Labour Convention, as it is easy to apply and is more user-friendly to the populace. The current focus of the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations in getting the labour laws revised and modernised, prompted compelling work into the review of the current Common Rules and drafting a one PNG National Common Rule, which now accommodates these new work place issues and challenges.

The presentation of the Draft PNG National Common Rule was to create awareness on this new development, its rationale, and its application. As child labour is an issue that occurs both in the formal and informal sectors and the rural and urban areas, its inclusion in the new PNG National Common Rule allows for greater and wider application and monitoring, as a means to address the issue of child labour.

ROADSHOW FINDINGS:

The road-show which ran in these six provinces uncovered a number of common issues, which required the urgent attention of the Government.

1. Child Labour is a growing problem, which must be addressed now rather than later, as its impact can negatively reflect the future of the country in the next 20 - 40 years;
2. National legislations dealing with child related issues are inconsistent in application (particularly on the minimum age for employment);
3. The enforcement of these legislations are weak, which gives rise to abuse by perpetrators;
4. Clear pathways should be created by the Government, to ensure that these issues of child labour are heard and discussed at the highest level of Government's decision making process;
5. For such programmes to be rolled out; there is a need for the Government's continued support, after the donor ends its project funding - sustainability approaches should be established;
6. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a growing problem right across the country;
7. The Informal Sector Economy is seen as one of the main hubs for child labour as it is unregulated and hampers compliance and monitoring;
8. Lack of acceptance and ownership of the issue of child labour is seen as another reason for the growing problem of child labour;
9. Lack of Government support to NGOs/CSOs/FBOs, who remain champions in the fight to address child related issues; and
10. Agricultural work is also seen as another hub for child labour.

ROADSHOW RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of key recommendations were gathered from the Joint Child Labour/Common Rule Workshop, which are seen as practical, doable and result - oriented. These include:

- ❖ Wider consultation for both the Common Rule & related national legislations;
- ❖ Wider networking and coordination on child labour issues to address the legislative gaps;
- ❖ Ownership of the child labour issues in the provinces;
- ❖ Political Support at both the provincial and national levels to progress initiatives, programmes and plans to address child labour issues;

- ❖ Strengthening of family units as the first point of protection for the child/children; and
- ❖ The review of the Employment Act and the Common Rule should be circulated widely to allow inputs from stakeholders in the provinces, rather than them being restricted to Port Moresby participants/stakeholders only.

WAY FORWARD:

The way forward was one of the major aspects of the Road-show, which allows the provincial participants and stakeholders to feed us back on what they wanted for the province. It also allowed the participants and stakeholders to point out what should be done to address these issues of child labour, as this is the only way that we can get their involvement.

A number of pertinent points were raised, which again required urgent and timely consideration from the Government and the donors, so as to address the issue of child labour.

They include:

- ❖ The establishment of Provincial Child Labour Committees (PCLC), which will run programmes and activities of child labour at the provincial, community and LLG levels;
- ❖ The Provincial Labour Officers will chair the PCLCs;
- ❖ DLIR and the ILO to support the establishment of these PCLCs;
- ❖ A second round of consultations with the Committees will take effect immediately to progress, which will see the establishment of the PCLCs, their structures and their programmes and plans;
- ❖ The TORs will be formulated by DLIR/ILO for each of the PCLCs;
- ❖ PCLCs will be legislated through the review process of the Employment Act
- ❖ The outcomes of the Road-show need to be taken up by the Minister and presented to Parliament; and
- ❖ Sustainability - The donor should continue to support the activities of child labour, either through this Project or other relating and new CL programmes.

PROGRESSIVE PLANS/INITIATIVES

During the Road-show, a number of activities were also highlighted to the participants/stakeholders as part of promotional efforts of DLIR in sustaining child labour after its project life. These activities include: the establishment of the Child Labour Unit within the Labour Administrative Function of DLIR, as well as the trialling of the new Child Labour Inspection Forms and the Referral Forms. These forms were left behind with all the Provincial Labour Officers to be circulated to all stakeholders to run through and trial out.

APPRECIATION OF THE ROADSHOW:

The Road-show provided the opportunity for the Team to showcase the initiatives of DLIR, as all stakeholders/participants in the provinces thought that this is well overdue for such promotional work to be done by the Department.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Road-show Team would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Secretary - DLIR, the EU, the ILO Office for PICs for all the support and commitment in ensuring that the Road-show was completed as planned without any major hiccups.

Special acknowledgement also goes out to the media, especially The National newspaper and Kundu2 TV for covering the closing of the Child Labour Road-show in Kokopo, East New Britain Province.

Special acknowledgment also goes out to all the PLOs in Mt. Hagen, Goroka, Lae, Madang, Kimbe and Rabaul/Kokopo for their efforts in getting the information to the participants, who came in numbers to these provincial road-shows.

END OF SNAPSHOT

Report compiled by: The Joint Child Labour/Common Rule Road-show Team

Date: Friday 10 May 2013