



WAGE ORDER NO. ARMM-17

PROVIDING FOR A NEW BASIC WAGE RATE INCREASE AT P 15.00/DAY FOR BOTH NON-AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS

WHEREAS, per R.A. 6727, otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board is mandated to determine and fix the minimum wage rates applicable in the region;

WHEREAS, it has been two (2) years since the Regional Wage Board issued Wage Order No. ARMM-16 providing for a basic wage increase at P15.00/day for Non-Agriculture and P5.00/day for Agriculture Sectors, thus making the Minimum Wage Rate for the former at P265.00/day and for the latter at P255.00/day effective March 01, 2016;

WHEREAS, the Regional Wage Board, *motu proprio*, conducted public consultations/dialogues with the Tripartite Sectors regionwide scheduled on February 16, 2018 in Lamitan City, Basilan; February 17, 2018 in Jolo, Sulu; February 17, 2018 in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; February 22, 2018 in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur; and February 27, 2018 for Maguindanao in Cotabato City;

WHEREAS, after the conduct of said public consultations, the Regional Wage Board made the following assessments, to wit:

- a) That both the EMPLOYERS and WORKERS support a minimum wage increase for all sectors;
- b) That the EMPLOYERS shall continue to develop and improve their policies on non-wage benefits, bonuses and other related incentives;
- c) That all sectors supported the productivity based scheme on the firm level, in a form of income augmentation;
- d) That the ARMM, under the leadership of RG MUJIV S. HATAMAN, maintains to offer the lowest minimum wage rate compared to neighboring regions, in order to attract more local and foreign investors;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested under Republic Act No. 6727, known as the "Wage Rationalization Act", the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RTWPB-ARMM), hereby issues this Wage Order:

Section 1. New Wage Rate. Upon effectively of this Wage Order, all minimum wage earners of private sector in the region shall receive a FIFTEEN PESOS (P15.00) per day increase in their basic wage.

The NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES of the covered workers in the private sector in ARMM shall be as follows:

Sector/Industry	Minimum Wage under Wage Order No. ARMM-16	Basic Wage Increase	New Daily Minimum Wage Rate
A. Non – Agriculture (Industrial/Manufacturing/Construction/Commercial/Mining/Academe)	P265.00/day	P15.00/day	P280.00/day
B. Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation • Non-Plantation 	P255.00/day	P15.00/day	P270.00/day

Section 2. Coverage. This Wage Order applies to all minimum wage earners in the region, except family drivers, those employed in the personal service of another, and workers in registered Barangay Micro Business Enterprises with certificates of authority pursuant to R. A. 9178.

Section 3. Productivity Based Wages. In order to sustain rising levels of wages and enhance competitiveness, business establishments are encouraged strongly to adopt productivity improvement tools, Labor Management Corporation, as well as implement gain-sharing programs that will provide more incentives to the workers through increased productivity. Accordingly, the Board shall provide the necessary studies and technical assistance pursuant to Republic Act No. 6971 or the Productivity Incentives Act of 1990”.

Section 4. Basis of Minimum Wage. The minimum basic wage rates prescribed under this Order shall be for the normal working hours, which shall not exceed eight (8) hours work a day.

Section 5. Workers Paid by Results. All workers paid by results, including those who are paid on piecework, “takay”, “pakyaw” or task basis, shall be entitled to receive the prescribed minimum basic wage rate per eight (8) hours work a day, or a proportion thereof for working less than eight (8) hours work a day.

Section 6. Wages of Special Groups of Workers. Wages of apprentices and learners shall in no case be less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the applicable minimum wage rates prescribed in the region.

All recognized learnership and apprenticeship agreements entered into before the effectivity of this Order shall be considered automatically modified insofar as their wage clauses are concerned to reflect the new prescribed wage rates.

All qualified handicapped workers shall receive the full amount of increase in this Order pursuant to R. A. 7277.

Section 7. Application to Private Educational Institution. In the case of private educational institutions, the share of covered workers and employees in the increase of tuition fees for school year 2017-2018 shall be considered as compliance with the minimum basic wage increase set forth herein; provided, that if such minimum basic wage increase is less than the prescribed adjustment, the employer shall pay the difference in the school year 2018-2019.

Private educational institutions which have not increased their tuition fees for the school year 2017-2018, may defer compliance with the provisions of this Order until the beginning of School Year 2018-2019.

In any case, all private educational institutions shall implement the Minimum Basic Wage increase prescribed herein starting School Year 2018-2019.

Section 8. Appeal to the Commission. Any party aggrieved by this Wage Order may file a verified appeal with the Commission through the Board within ten (10) calendar days from the publication of this Order.

Section 9. Effect of Filing of Appeal. The filing of the appeal does not operate to stay the Order unless the party appealing such Order shall file with the Commission an undertaking with a surety or sureties satisfactory to the Commission for payment of the corresponding basic wage increase to employees affected by the Order, in the event such Order is affirmed.

Section 10. Exemptions. Upon application with and as determined by the Board, in accordance with the NWPC Guidelines No. 02, series of 2007 (The Amended Rules on Exemption), the following may be exempted from the applicability of this Wage Order:

- a. Retail and Service Establishments regularly employing not more than 10 workers.
- b. Distressed Establishments;
- c. New Business Enterprises; and
- d. Establishments adversely affected by calamities such as Natural and Human-Induced Disaster.

Section 11. Complaints for Non-Compliance. Complaints for non-compliance with this Order shall be filed with the Regional Office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) having jurisdiction over the workplace and shall be subjected to the mandatory thirty day (30) conciliation and mediation process under Single Entry Approach (SEnA). However, if settlement fails, the case becomes subject of enforcement proceedings under Articles 128 and 129 of the Labor Code, as amended.

Section 12. Non-Diminution of Benefits. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to reduce any existing wage rates, allowances and benefits of any form under existing laws, decrees, issuances, executive orders and/or under any contract or agreement between the workers and employers.

Section 13. Penal Provision. Any person, corporation, trust or firm, partnership, association or entity which refuses or fails to comply to this Order, shall be subjected to the penal provisions under R. A. 6727, as amended by R. A. 8188.

Section 14. Prohibition Against Injunction. No preliminary or permanent injunction or temporary restraining order may be issued by any court, tribunal or other entity against any proceedings before the Board.

Section 15. Freedom to Bargain. This Order shall not be construed to prevent workers in particular firms or enterprises of industries from bargaining for higher wages with their respective employers.

Section 16. Reporting Requirement. Any person, company, corporation, partnership or any entity engaged in business shall submit a verified itemized listing of their labor component to the Board not later than January 31, 2019 and every year thereafter in accordance with the form prescribed by the Commission..

Section 17. Repealing Clause. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Wage Order are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 18. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Order is declared unconstitutional or illegal, the other provisions or parts shall remain valid.

Section 19. Implementing Rules. The Board shall prepare the necessary Rules to implement this Order subject to approval of the Regional Governor of ARMM.

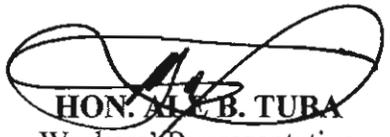
Section 20. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Approved this 23rd day of April 2018 in Cotabato City, Philippines.


HON. MUSLIMIN A. JAKILAN
Board Chairperson
DOLE-ARMM Regional Secretary


HON. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN
Vice-Chairperson
RPDO Executive Director


HON. ANWAR A. MALANG
Vice-Chairperson
DTI-ARMM Regional Secretary


HON. AL B. TUBA
Workers' Representative


HON. EDGAR L. BULLECER
Employers' Representative


HON. ALMARIO U. LERIOS
Workers' Representative

Vacant
Employers' Representative

Attested by:


LILIAN RUTH C. CABANBAN
Board Secretary VI



RULES IMPLEMENTING WAGE ORDER NO. ARMM-17

RULE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Pursuant to Section 6, Rule IV of the Amended Rules of Procedure on Minimum Wage Fixing and Section 19 of Wage Order No. ARMM-17, the following rules are hereby issued for guidance and compliance by all concerned.

Section 1. Title.

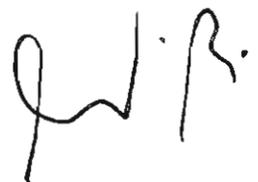
These Rules shall be known as the “Rules Implementing Wage Order No. ARMM-17.”

Section 2. Definition of Terms.

- a) “Order” means Wage Order No. ARMM-17;
- b) “Commission or NWPC” refers to the National Wages and Productivity Commission;
- c) “Regional Wage Board or Board” means the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board of ARMM;
- d) “Regional Department” means the Department of Labor and Employment in ARMM;
- e) “ARMM” refers to the geographic area in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao covering the Provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Cities of Lamitan in Basilan and Marawi in Lanao del Sur;
- f) “RA 8188” an act increasing the penalty and imposing double indemnity for violation of the prescribed wage increase in the wage rates amending for the purpose Section 12 of RA 6727 otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act;
- g) “Agriculture” refers to the farming in all its branches and among others, includes the cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodities, dairying, raising of livestock or poultry, the culture of fish and other products in farms or ponds and any activities performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with some farming operations, but does not include the manufacturing and/or processing of sugar, coconut, abaca, tobacco, pineapple, aquatic or other farm products;
- h) “Plantation Agricultural Enterprise” is the one engaged in agriculture with an area of more than twenty four (24) hectares in a locality or which employs at least twenty (20) workers. Any other agricultural enterprise shall be considered as non-plantation agricultural enterprise;
- i) “Establishment” refers to an economic unit, which engages in one or predominantly one kind of economic activity at a single fixed location;

- j) "Retail Establishment" refers to an entity principally engaged in the sale of goods to end for personal or household use. A retail establishment that regularly engages in wholesale activities loses its retail character.
- k) "Service Establishment" refers to an entity principally engaged in the sale of services to individuals for their own or household use and is generally recognized as such.
- l) "New Business Enterprises" refers to establishments, including non-profit institutions established within two (2) years from the effectivity of the Order based on the latest registration with appropriate government government agency such as SEC, DTI, CDA and Mayor's Office.
- m) "Basic Wage" means all remuneration or earnings paid by an employer to a worker for services rendered on normal working days and hours but does not include cost-of-living allowances, profit sharing payments, premiums payments, 13th month pay or other monetary benefits which are not considered as part or integrated into regular salary of the workers.
- n) "Non-Wage Benefits" refer to non-cash benefits granted to workers such as group life insurance, hospitalization, scholarship, rice allowance, hajj pilgrim, and the like;
- o) "Minimum Wage Rate" refers to the lowest wage rate that an employer can pay his workers, as fixed by the Board;
- p) "Wage Distortion" means a situation where an increase in prescribed wage rates results in the elimination or severe contraction of intentional quantitative differences in wage or salary rates between and among employee groups in an establishment as to effectively obliterate the distinctions embodied in such wage structure based on skills, length or service, or other logical bases of differentiation.
- q) "Distressed Establishments" refer to establishments which meet the criteria enumerated in Section 3A of the NWPC Guidelines No. 2, Series of 2007.
- r) "State of Calamity" refers to a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damage to property, disruption of means of livelihood, roads and normal way of life of people in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of a natural or human-induced hazard (Section 3 of RA 10121, "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010").
- s) "Hazard" refers to a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihood or services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage; any potential threat to public safety and/or public health; any phenomenon which has the potential to cause disruption or damage to people, their property, their services or their environment, i.e., their communities. The four classes of hazards are natural, technological, biological and social hazards. (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council NDRRMC).
- t) "Disaster" refers to a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources; an actual threat to public health and safety where the local government and emergency services are unable to meet the immediate needs of the community; an event in which the local emergency management measures are insufficient to cope with a hazard, whether due to a lack of time, capacity or resources, resulting in unacceptable levels of damage or number of casualties. (NDRRMC)."

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- u) "Capital" refers to paid-up capital at the end of the last full accounting period, in the case of corporations or total invested capital at the beginning of the period under review, in the case of partnerships, single proprietorships, and non-profit/non-stock organizations respectively.
- v) "Full Accounting Period" refers to a period of twelve (12) months or one (1) year of business operations.
- w) "Deficit" refers to the negative balance of the retained earnings account of a corporation. Retained earnings represent the cumulative balance of periodic earnings, dividend distributions, prior period adjustments and other capital adjustment.
- x) "Stock Corporation" refers to one organized for profit and issues shares of stock to its members.
- y) "Stockholders' Equity" refers to the residual interest in the assets of an entity that remains after deducting its liabilities. It is total assets minus total liabilities. It is the same as equity and net worth.
- z) "Non-Stock Non-Profit Organization" refers to one organized principally for public purposes such as charitable, educational, cultural or similar purposes and does not issue shares of stock to its members.
- aa) "Partnership" refers to an association of two or more persons who bind themselves to contribute money, property or industry to a common fund with the intention of dividing the profits among themselves or for the exercise of a profession.
- bb) "Single Proprietorship" refers to a business unit owned and controlled by only one person.
- cc) "Quasi-Banks" refer to institutions such as investment houses and financing companies performing quasi-banking functions as defined by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
- dd) "Paid-up Capital" refers to the total amount of shareholder capital that has been paid by shareholders.
- ee) "Capital Impairment" refers to the diminution of capital due to accumulated losses.
- ff) "Interim Period" refers to a financial reporting period shorter than a full financial year (most typically a quarter or half-year)
- gg) "Net Loss" refers to actual loss suffered by a company after deducting expenditures including overhead and interest charges from revenues.
- hh) "Financial Statement" refers to a written report which quantitatively describes the financial health of a company. This includes the following: balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and notes to financial statement.
- ii) "Conservatorship" refers to a remedy resorted to by the Monetary Board in case a bank or quasi-banks is in a state of continuing inability or willingness to maintain condition of liquidity deemed adequate to protect the interests of the depositors and

creditors. A conservator is appointed to manage the establishment in order to restore its viability.

- jj) "Receivership/Liquidation" refers to a remedy resorted by the Monetary Board in case a bank or quasi-bank is (a) unable to pay its liabilities as they become due in the ordinary course of business; (b) has insufficient realizable assets as determined by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to meet its liabilities; (c) cannot continue in business without involving probable losses to its depositors or creditors; or (d) has willfully violated a cease and desist order under Section 37 of R.A. 7653 that has become final involving acts or transactions which amount to fraud or dissipation of the assets of that institution.
- kk) "Under Corporate Rehabilitation" refers to establishments that are placed under a rehabilitation receiver by a court of competent jurisdiction.

RULE II – MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Section 1. New Wage Rate. Upon effectivity of this Wage Order, all minimum wage earners of private sector in the region shall receive a FIFTEEN PESOS (P15.00) per day increase in their basic wage.

The NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES of covered workers in the private sector in ARMM shall be as follows:

Sector/Industry	Minimum Wage under Wage Order No. ARMM-16	Basic Wage Increase	New Daily Minimum Wage Rate
A. Non – Agriculture (Industrial/Manufacturing/ Construction/Commercial /Mining/Academe)	P265.00/day	P15.00/day	P280.00/day
B. Agriculture • Plantation • Non-Plantation	P255.00/day	P15.00/day	P270.00/day

Section 2. Coverage. This Wage Order applies to all minimum wage earners in the region, except domestic helpers, those employed in the personal service of another, and workers in registered Barangay Micro Business Enterprises with certificates of authority pursuant to R. A. 9178.

Section 3. Productivity Based Wages. In order to sustain rising levels of wages and enhance competitiveness, business establishments are encouraged strongly to adopt productivity improvement schemes such as time & motion studies, good housekeeping, quality circles, labor management cooperation as well as implement gain-sharing programs that will provide more incentives to the workers through increased productivity. Accordingly, the Board shall provide the necessary studies and technical assistance pursuant to Republic Act No. 6971 or the Productivity Incentives Act of 1990".

Section 4. Basis of Minimum Wage.

The daily minimum wage rates prescribed herein shall be for the normal working hours, which shall not exceed eight hours work a day.

Section 5. Workers Paid by Results.

All workers paid by results, including those who are paid on piecework, "takay", "pakyaw", or task basis, shall receive not less than the applicable minimum wage rates prescribed under the Order for the normal working hours which shall not exceed eight (8) hours a day, or a proportion thereof for work of less than the normal working hours.

The prevailing minimum wage rates for workers paid by results shall be computed in accordance with the following steps:

a) Amount of increase in AMW*
----- X 100 = % increase
Previous AMW

b) Existing rate/piece x % increase = Increase in rate/piece;

c) Existing rate/piece + Increase in rate/piece = Adjusted rate/piece;

* Where AMW is the applicable minimum wage rate.

The wage rates of workers who are paid by results shall continue to be established in accordance with Article 101 of the Labor Code, as amended and its implementing regulations.

Section 6. Wage of Special Groups of Workers.

Wages of apprentices and learners shall in no case be less than seventy five percent (75%) of the applicable minimum wage rates prescribed in the Order.

All recognized apprenticeship and learnership agreement entered into before the effectivity of the Order shall be considered as automatically modified in so far as their wage clauses are concerned to reflect the adjustments prescribed under the Order.

All qualified handicapped workers and employees shall receive the applicable wage rates prescribed in this Order pursuant to R.A. 7277.

Section 7. Application to Private Educational Institutions

In the case of private educational institutions, the share of covered workers and employees in the increase in tuition fees for School Year 2017-2018 shall be considered as compliance with the increase set forth in Wage Order No. ARMM-17, provided that if such increase is less than the prescribed adjustment, the employer shall pay the difference in the School Year 2018-2019.

Private educational institutions, which have not increased their tuition fees for the School Year 2017-2018, may defer compliance with the provisions of Wage Order No. ARMM-17 until the beginning of School Year 2018-2019.

In any case, all private educational institutions shall implement the wage rates prescribed herein starting School Year 2018-2019.

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Section 8. Suggested Formula in Determining the Estimated Equivalent Monthly Regional (EEMR) Minimum Wage Rates per Republic Act No. 9492.

Without prejudice to existing company practices, agreements or policies, the following formulae may be used as guides in determining the estimated equivalent monthly minimum wage rate:

- a. For those who are required to work everyday including Sundays or rest days, special days, regular holidays and Muslim Legal Holidays:

Estimated Equivalent Monthly Rate (EEMR) = $\frac{\text{Applicable Daily Wage Rate (ADR)} \times 396.5 \text{ days}}{12 \text{ month}}$

Where 396.5 days/year	=	295	Ordinary working days
		24	12 Regular Holidays x 200%
		6	3 Muslim Holidays x 200%
		67.6	52 rest days x 130%
		<u>3.9</u>	3 special days x 130%
		396.5	Total no. of days/year

- b. For those who do not work but are considered paid on rest days, special days and regular holidays and Muslim Legal Holidays:

$EEMR = \frac{ADR \times 365 \text{ days}}{12 \text{ months}}$

Where 365 days/year	=	295	Ordinary working days
		52	Sundays/Rest days
		12	Regular Holidays
		3	Muslim Holidays
		<u>3</u>	Special Days
		365	Total no. of days/year

- c. For those who do not work and are not considered paid on Sundays or rest days:

$EEMR = \frac{ADR \times 313 \text{ days}}{12 \text{ months}}$

Where 313 days/year	=	295	Ordinary working days
		12	Regular Holidays
		3	Muslim Holidays
		<u>3</u>	Special days
		313	Total no. of days/year

- For those who do not work and are not considered paid on Saturdays and Sundays or rest days:

$EEMR = \frac{ADR \times 261 \text{ days}}{12 \text{ months}}$

Where 261 days/year	=	243	Ordinary working days
		12	Regular holidays
		3	Muslim holidays
		<u>3</u>	Special days
		261	Total no. of days/year

The following are the twelve (12) regular holidays which are observed nationwide:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| New Year's Day | January 1 |
| Maundy Thursday | Movable Date |

Good Friday	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan	April 9
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	June 12
National Heroes Day	Movable Date in August
Bonifacio Day	November 30
Christmas	December 25
Rizal Day	December 30
"Id-ul-Fitr" (Hari Raya Puasa)	Movable Date
"Id-ul-Adha" (Hari Raya Haji)	Movable Date

National Special Days:

All Saints Day	November 1
Last Day of the year	December 31
Ninoy Aquino Day	August 21

N.B. Some holidays mentioned above shall be observed per Republic Act 9492 which moved the dates of its observance to the nearest Monday.

Muslim Holidays by virtue of PD 1083 – Title I, Book V:

Amun Jadid (New year)	Falls on the 1 st day of the lunar month of Muharram
Maulid-un-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)	Falls on the 12th day of the 3 rd lunar month of Rabi-ul- Awwal
Lailatul Isra Wal Mi Raj (Nocturnal Journey and Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad)	Falls on the 27 th day of the 7 th lunar month of Rajab

Section 9. Application to Contractor.

In the case of contracts for construction projects and for security, janitorial services, the prescribed wage rates shall be borne by the principals or clients of the constructions / service contractors and the contract shall be deemed amended accordingly. In the event, however, that the principal or client fails to pay the prescribed wage rates, the construction / service contractor shall be jointly and severally liable with his principal or client.

Section 10. Mobile and Branch Workers.

The minimum wage rates of workers, who by nature of their work have to travel, shall be those applicable in the domicile or head office of the employer. The minimum wage of workers working in branches or agencies of establishments in or outside the region shall be those applicable in the place where they are stationed.

Section 11. Transfer of Personnel.

The transfer of personnel to areas outside the Region shall not be valid ground for the reduction of the wage rates being enjoyed by the workers prior to such transfer. The workers transferred to the other Regions with higher wage rates shall be entitled to the minimum wage rate applicable therein.

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Section 12. Appeal to the Commission.

Any party aggrieved by the Wage Order may file an appeal with the Commission within ten (10) calendar days from the publication of the Order. The Commission shall decide the appeal within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of filing. The appeal shall be accompanied by a memorandum of appeal, which shall state the grounds relied upon, and the arguments in support of the appeal.

Section 13. Effect of Appeal.

The filing of the appeal does not operate to stay the Order unless the party appealing such Order shall file with the Commission an undertaking with a surety or sureties satisfactory to the Commission for payment to employees affected by the Order of the corresponding increase, in the event such Order is affirmed.

RULE III - Exemptions

Section 1. Exemptible Establishments and Criteria for Exemption.

Upon application with, and as determined by the Board, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations issued by the Commission, the following maybe exempted from the applicability of the Order:

A. Retail and Service Establishments regularly employing not more than ten (10) workers

- 1. It is engaged in the retail sale of goods and/or services to end users for personal or household use;
- 2. It is regularly employing not more than ten (10) workers regardless of status, except the owner/s, for at least six (6) months in any calendar year.

B. Distressed Establishments

1. For Corporations/Cooperatives

a. Full Exemption

a.1 When the deficit as of the last full accounting period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to 20% or more of the paid-up capital for the same period; or

a.2 When an establishment registers capital deficiency, i.e., negative stockholders equity as of the last full accounting period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order.

b. Partial Exemption

b.1 When the deficit as of the last full accounting period immediately preceding the effectivity of the order amounts to at least 10% but less than 20% of the paid-up capital for the same period.

c. Conditional Exemption

c.1 When the actual net loss as of the interim period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to at least 25% of the total assets.

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2. For single Proprietorships/ Partnerships

a. Full Exemption

a.1 When the accumulated net losses for the last two (2) full accounting periods immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amount to 20% or more of the total invested capital at the beginning of the period under review; or

a.2 When an establishment registers capital deficiency i.e. negative net worth as of the last full accounting period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order.

b. Partial Exemption

b.1 When the accumulated net losses for the last two (2) full accounting periods immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to at least 10% but less than 20% of the total invested capital at the beginning of the period under review.

a. Conditional Exemption

c.1 When the actual net loss as of the interim period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to at least 25% of total assets.

3. For Non-stock, Non-profit Organizations

a. Full Exemption

a.1 When the accumulated net loss as for last two (2) full accounting periods immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amount to 20% or more of the fund balance/members' contribution at the beginning of the period: or

a.2 When an establishment registers capital deficiency i.e negative fund balance /members contributions as of the last full accounting period or interim period, if any, immediately preceding the effectivity of the order.

b. Partial Exemption:

b.1 When the accumulated net losses for the last two (2) full accounting period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amount to at least 10% but not more than 20% of the fund balance/members' contribution at the beginning of the period.

c. Conditional Exemption:

c.1 When the actual net loss as of the interim period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to at least 25% of total assets.

4. For Banks and Quasi-banks

a. Under receivership/liquidation

Exemption may be granted to a bank or quasi-bank under receivership or liquidation when there is a certification from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it is under receivership or liquidation as provided in Section 30 RA 7653, otherwise known as the New Central Bank Act.

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b. Under Controllorship/conservatorship

A bank or quasi-bank under controllorship/conservatorship may apply for exemption as a distressed establishment under Section 3 A of the Amended Rules on Exemption.

5. Establishments Under Corporate Rehabilitation

Exemption may be granted to corporations, partnerships and associations under corporate rehabilitation when there is an order from the court of competent jurisdiction that it is under rehabilitation as provided in Section 6 Rule IV of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation (2000), as amended by Section 7, Rule 3 of the 2008 Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation.

C. New Business Enterprises

Exemption may be granted to New Business Enterprises duly registered and established outside the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Export Processing Zone within two (2) years from the effectivity of the Order classified under any of the following:

1. Agriculture establishments whether plantation or non-plantation.
2. Establishments with total assets after financing of five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and below.

D. Establishment Adversely Affected by Natural Calamities and Human-Induced Disasters

1. The establishment must be located in an area declared by a competent authority as under a state of calamity/disaster.
2. The calamity must have occurred within six (6) months prior to the effectivity of this Wage Order. However, if based on the assessment by a competent authority, the damage to properties is at least 50% and the period of recovery will exceed one year, the six month period may be extended to one year.
3. Losses suffered by the establishment as a result of the calamity/disaster that exceed the insurance coverage should amount to 20% or more of the stockholders' equity as of the last full accounting period in the case of corporations and cooperatives, total invested capital in the case of partnership and single proprietorships and fund balance/members' contribution in the case of non-stock non-profit organizations.

Only losses or damage to properties directly resulting from the calamity/disaster and not incurred as a result of normal business operations shall be considered.

4. Where necessary, the Board or its duly-authorized representative shall conduct an ocular inspection of the establishment or engage the services of experts to validate the extent of damages suffered.

Within seventy five (75) days from the date of publication of the Rules, an application for exemption shall be filed with the Board in three (3) legible copies by the owner/manager or duly authorized representative of an establishment either through personal service or by registered mail provided that all the required documents in support of the application must be filed within the said 75-day filing period and that no further extension of filing and submission of required documents shall be allowed. The date of mailing shall be deemed as the date of filing.

Application for exemption filed with the DOLE Regional or Provincial Offices are considered filed with the appropriate Board in the region.

The application shall be under oath and accompanied by complete supporting documents as enumerated under Section 1, Rule IV.

Section 3. Duration and Extent of Exemption.

- A. Full exemption of one (1) year from effectivity of the Order shall be granted to all categories of establishment that meet the applicable criteria for exemption under Section 1, Rule III of this Rules.
- B. Partial exemption of 50% from effectivity of the Order with respect to the amount or period of exemption shall be granted only in the case of distressed establishment under Section 1, Rule III of these Rules.
- C. Conditional exemption of one (1) year from the effectivity of the Order shall be granted only in the case of distressed establishment under Section 1 of Rule IV of these Rules. The conditional exemption shall be confirmed, as follows:

c.1 For Corporations

When deficit as defined in this Rules, as of the last full accounting period amounts to 20% or more of the paid-up capital for the same period.

c.2 For Single Proprietorships and Partnerships.

When the net loss for the last two full accounting periods immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to 20% or more of the total invested capital at the beginning of the period under review.

c.3 For Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organizations

When net loss for the last two full accounting periods immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order amounts to 20% or more of the fund balance/members' contribution at the beginning of the period.

In the absence of such actual losses, the company shall pay its workers the wage increase due them under the order, retroactive to the effective to the effectivity of the Order.

Section 4. Procedures on Exemption

A. Filing of Application

1. An application, in three (3) legible copies may be filed with the Board by the owner/manager or duly authorized representative of an establishment, in

person or by registered mail. The date of mailing shall be deemed as the date of filing.

2. All application for exemption shall be under oath, accompanied by complete supporting documents and must be filed within seventy five (75) days from publication of the rules implementing the Wage Order. No further extension for filing and submission of the required documents shall be allowed.

In the case of NBEs, application shall be filed not later than sixty (60) days from the date of registration.

3. In case of applications of establishments adversely affected by calamities where the calamity occurred after the expiration of the period for the filing of an application for exemption, the Board may reopen the same.

Applications under the preceding paragraph shall also include a certification that a general assembly to explain to its workers and employees its intent to file an application for exemption, has been conducted prior to the filing of the application and an undertaking to conduct another assembly informing its workers and employees of the decision of the Board in its application.

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B. Filing of Opposition

Any worker or if unionized, the union in the applicant establishment, may file with the appropriate Board within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notice of the filing of the application, an opposition to the application for exemption stating the reasons why the same should not be approved, furnishing the applicant a copy thereof. The opposition shall be in three (3) legible copies, under oath and accompanied by pertinent documents, if any.

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C. Filing of Motion for Reconsideration

The aggrieved party may file with the Board a motion for reconsideration of the decision on the application for exemption within ten (10) days from its receipt and shall state the particular grounds upon which the motion is based, copy furnished the other party and the DOLE-ARMM.

No second motion for reconsideration shall be entertained in any case. The decision of the Board shall be final and executory unless appealed to the Commission.

D. Filing of Appeal to the Commission

1. Appeal- Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Board may file an appeal to the Commission, through the board, in two (2) legible copies, not later than ten (10) days from the date of receipt of the decision.

The appeal, with proof of service of the other party, shall be accompanied with a memorandum, through the Board, in two (2) legible copies, not later than ten (10) days from the date of receipt of the decision.

2. Grounds for Appeal- An appeal may be filed on the following grounds:

- a. Non-conformity with the prescribed guidelines and/or procedures on exemption;

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- b. Prima facie evidence of grave abuse of discretion on the part of the Board; or
 - c. Questions of law.
3. Opposition- The appellee may file with the Board his reply or opposition to the appeal within ten (10) days from receipt of the appeal. Failure of the appellee to file his reply or opposition shall be construed as waiver on his part to file the same.
4. Transmittal or records- Within five (5) days upon receipt of the reply or opposition of the appellee or after the expiration of the period to file the same, the entire records of the case which shall be consecutively numbered, shall be transmitted by the Board to the Commission.

Section 5. Documents Required:

The following supporting documents shall be submitted together with the application:

For all Categories of Exemption

Proof of notice of filing of the application to the President of the union/contracting party if one is organized in the establishment, or if there is no union, a copy of a circular giving general notice of the filing of the application to all the workers in the establishment. The proof of notice, which may be translated in the vernacular, shall state that the workers' representative was furnished a copy of the application with all the supporting documents. The notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the establishment.

- A. For Retail and Service Establishments regularly employing not more than ten (10) workers
- 1. Affidavit from the employer stating the following:
 - a. It is a retail/service establishment;
 - b. It is regularly employing not more than ten (10) workers for at least six (6) months in any calendar year; and
 - c. Number of employees with its corresponding names and date of employment.
 - 2. Business Permit for the current year from the appropriate government agency.
- B. For Distressed Establishments
- 1. For Corporations, Cooperatives, Single Proprietorships, Partnerships, Non-Stock Non-Profit Organizations:
 - a. Full or Partial Exemption
 - a.1. Audited financial statements (together with the Auditor's opinion and the noted thereto) for the last two (2) full accounting periods preceding the effectivity of the Order filed with and stamped "received" by the appropriate agency.
 - b. Conditional Exemption
 - b.1. Audited financial statement (together with the Auditor's opinion and the noted thereto) for the last full accounting period and interim quarterly financial statements for the period immediately preceding the effectivity of the Order.
 - b.2. To confirm the grant of conditional exemption, audited financial statements for the last full accounting period, stamped received by the appropriate

government agency, to be submitted within 30 days from the lapse of the one year exemption period.

2. For Banks and Quasi-banks

Certification from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it is under receivership/liquidation.

3. For Establishments Under Corporate Rehabilitation

Order from a Court of competent jurisdiction that the establishment is under rehabilitation.

C. For New Business Enterprises

1. Affidavit from employer regarding the following:

- a. Principal economic activity
- b. Date of registration with appropriate government agency
- c. Amount of total assets

2. Certificate of Registration from the appropriate government agency

D. For Establishments Adversely Affected by Natural Calamities and Human-Induced Disaster

1. Affidavit from the General Manager or Chief Executive Officer of the establishment regarding the following:

- a. Date and type of calamity/disaster
- b. Amount of losses /damages suffered as a direct result of calamity/disaster
- c. List of properties damaged/lost together with estimated valuation
- d. For properties that are not insured, a statement that the same are not covered by insurance.

2. Copies of insurance policy contracts covering the properties damaged, if any.

3. Adjuster's report for insured properties.

4. Audited financial statements for the last full accounting period preceding the effectivity of the Order stamped received by the appropriate government agency.

The Board may require the submission of other pertinent documents to support the application for exemption.

5. Audited Financial Statements for the last full accounting period preceding the effectivity of the wage order, stamped received by the appropriate government agency. In case of total damage to properties caused by the calamity, a Certification by the Barangay and pictures of the damaged property/ies may be submitted in lieu of the Audited Financial Statements.

Section 6. Effect of Filing on the Application for Exemption.

Whenever an application for exemption has been filed with the Board, the Regional Office of the Department of Labor shall be duly notified. Pending resolution of the said application, action on any complaint for alleged non-compliance with the Order shall be deferred by the Regional Office of the Department.

Section 7. Effect of Disapproved Application for Exemption.

In the event that the application for exemption is not approved, covered workers shall be paid the prescribed wage increase as provided for under the Order retroactive to the date of effectivity of the Order plus simple interest of one percent (1%) per month.

RULE IV - SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Effect on Existing Wage Structure.

Where the application of the prescribed minimum wage rate results in distortions in the wage structure within an establishment, which gives rise to dispute therein, such dispute shall first be settled voluntarily between the parties.

In cases where there are collective bargaining agreements or recognized labor unions, the employer and the union shall negotiate to correct the distortions through the grievance procedure under their collective bargaining agreement, and if it remains unresolved, through voluntary arbitration. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing, the voluntary arbitrator or panel of voluntary arbitrators shall decide the dispute within ten (10) calendar days from the time said dispute was referred to voluntary arbitration.

In cases where there are no collective bargaining agreements or recognized labor unions, the employers and workers shall endeavor to correct such distortions. Any dispute arising there from shall be settled through the National Conciliation and Mediation Board and if it remains unresolved after ten (10) calendar days of conciliation, the same shall be referred to the appropriate branch of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC). The NLRC shall conduct continuous hearings and decide the dispute within twenty (20) calendar days from the time said dispute is submitted for compulsory arbitration.

The pendency of a dispute arising from wage distortion shall not in any way delay the applicability of any increase prescribed wage rates pursuant to the provisions of the Wage Order.

Section 2. Complaints for Non-Compliance.

Complaints for non-compliance with this Order shall be filed with the Regional Office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) having jurisdiction over the workplace and shall be subjected to the mandatory thirty day (30) conciliation and mediation process under Single Entry Approach (SEnA). However if settlement fails, the case becomes subject of enforcement proceedings under Articles 128 and 129 of the Labor Code, as amended.

Section 3. Conduct of Inspection by the Department.

The Department shall conduct inspection of establishments, as often as necessary, to determine whether the workers are paid the prescribed wage rates and other benefits granted by law or any Wage Order. In the conduct of inspection in unionized companies, Department inspectors shall always be accompanied by the president or other responsible officer of the recognized bargaining unit or of any interested union. In the case of non-unionized establishment, a worker representing the workers in the said company will accompany the inspector.

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The workers' representative shall have the right to submit his own findings to the Department and to testify on the same if he does not occur with the findings of the labor inspector.

Section 4. Non-diminution of Benefits.

Nothing in the Order and in this Rule shall be construed to reduce any existing wage rates, allowances and benefits of any form under existing laws, decrees, issuances, executive orders, and/or under any contract or agreement between the workers and the employers.

Section 5. Penal Provision.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 of RA 6727, as amended by RA 8188, any person, corporation, trust, firm, partnership, association or entity which refuses or fails to pay the prescribed increase in the Order shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) nor more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than (2) years nor more than four(4) years or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court. Provided, that any person convicted under the Order shall not be entitled to the benefits provided for under the Probation Law.

The employer concerned shall be ordered to pay an amount equivalent to double the unpaid benefits owing to the employees: Provided, that payment of indemnity shall not absolve the employer from the criminal liability imposed under this Order.

If the violation is committed by a corporation, trust or firm, partnership, association or any other entity, the penalty of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the entity's responsible officers, including but not limited to the president, vice-president, chief executive officer, general manager, managing director or partner.

Section 6. Prohibition Against Injunction.

No preliminary or permanent injunction or temporary restraining order may be issued by any court, tribunal or other entity against any proceedings before the Commission or Boards.

Section 7. Freedom to Bargain.

The Order shall not be construed to prevent workers in particular firms or enterprises of industries from bargaining for higher wages and flexible working arrangements with their respective employers.

Section 8. Reporting Requirements.

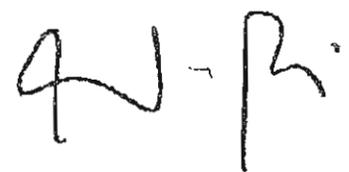
Any person, company, corporation, partnership or an entity engaged in business shall submit a verified itemized listing of their labor component to the Board not later than January 31, 2019 and every year thereafter in accordance with the form prescribed by the Commission.

(Refer to Annex "A" for the prescribed form)

Section 9. Repealing Clause.

All orders, issuances, rules and regulations on wages, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of the Wage Order and this Rules are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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Section 10. Separability Clause.

If any provision or part of the Order and this Rules, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Order and this Rule or the application of such provision or part thereof to the other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

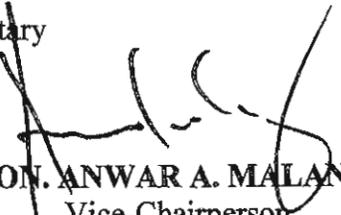
Section 11. Effectivity of Rules.

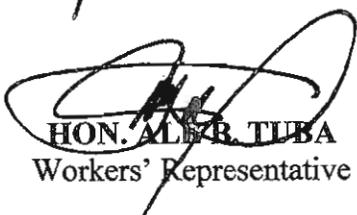
These Rules shall take effect on June 15, 2018.

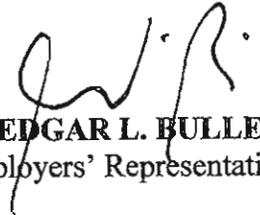
Approved this 23rd day of May, 2018 in Cotabato City, Philippines.

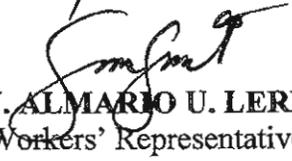

HON. MUSLIMIN A. JAKILAN
Board Chairperson
DOLE-ARMM Regional Secretary


HON. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN
Vice-Chairperson
RPDO Executive Director


HON. ANWAR A. MALANG
Vice-Chairperson
DTI-ARMM Regional Secretary

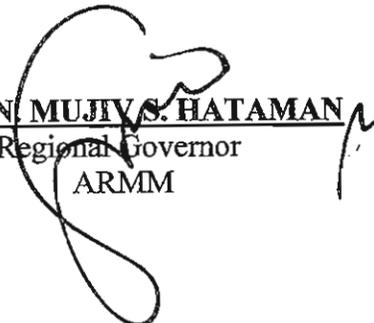

HON. ALFER TUBA
Workers' Representative


HON. EDGAR L. BULLECER
Employers' Representative


HON. ALMARIO U. LERIOS
Workers' Representative

Vacant
Employers' Representative

APPROVED this 26th day of June, 2018.


HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Regional Governor
ARMM

Attested by:


LILIAN RUTH C. CABANBAN
Board Secretary VI