



SUBIC BAY FREEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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March 13, 2009

Honorable Marianito D. Roque
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
Muralla St. cor. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros
1002 Manila
Philippines

Dear Sec. Roque:

This is in reference to the current Inspections being performed by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

We, the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC), would like to inform your good office that the inspections now being carried out by DOLE are creating bewilderment and negative perception in our government by our member businesses, especially since President Arroyo herself had stated time and again in her State of the Nation Addresses, the need to streamline government.

SBFCC is of the opinion that current SBMA practices are generally adequate to ensure compliance with labor standards. Several SBMA departments, including Labor as well as Health and Safety Departments, conduct annual in-depth inspections of various company documents and working conditions of each and every locator. These inspections, while necessary to ensure compliance, take a tremendous amount of time, not to mention the disruption of the business at hand. We believe yet another inspection of the same is totally redundant.

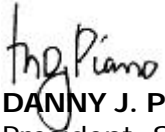
Insofar as labor issues are concerned, the Freeport can boast a model of decorum regarding industrial peace; labor unions are nearly non-existent here. In addition to the SBMA Labor Department, there exists the SBMA Workforce Development group which provides continuous and ongoing seminars and workshops which further contribute to the satisfaction and compliance of employee and employer relationships within the Freeport.

We take exception to the fact that the labor-related issues involving only one locator appears to be creating an additional burden for the remainder of locators who are in full compliance of the rules and regulations as written under PD 851. Senate hearings and investigations are already ongoing anyway so other locators are aghast at why the problem should spill-over to them. If at all, this is an issue between government agencies, and should be resolved without innocent and compliant locators having to get caught in the middle.

At this time of economic uncertainty, the recent DOLE Inspections are creating yet another stratum of reportorial requirements which severely detracts from conducting business in the Freeport. Many of our locators are trying to survive the economic downturn as it is; unnecessarily adding burdens is something that we all can do without.

The Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce has always worked with our members and government agencies to try to find solutions and common ground on important issues. We hope that something can be worked out to alleviate the current situation.


Yours truly,



DANNY J. PIANO
President, SBFCC
President and CEO, Absolute Service Inc.
Subic Bay Freeport Zone



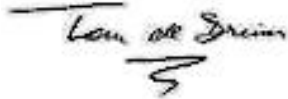
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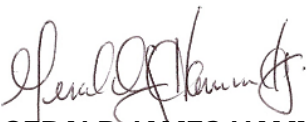
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