



Republic of the Philippines  
**Philippine Economic Zone Authority**

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. **2022-056**

**TO :** All PEZA Registered Business Enterprises (RBEs) in CALABARZON

**FROM :** TERESO O. PANGA  
 Officer in-Charge and Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning

**SUBJECT :** Addressing Tuberculosis (TB) in the Workplace: Town Hall Meeting

**DATE :** 12 August 2022

There is a need to establish and strengthen the tuberculosis programs in the workplace in the economic zones and in their service providers classified as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These MSMEs such as those providing janitorial or courier services, residual waste haulers or scrappers and the like may not have well-equipped safety officers or access to information on available national health programs. Based on the WHO Global TB Report, reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment as a result of the pandemic has resulted in increased TB deaths worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

**Background.** In 2021, there are 500 cases for every 100,000 population in the Philippines<sup>2</sup>, it is the second leading cause of death among communicable diseases in the country. We are considered as a high TB, high TB-HIV and high drug-resistant burden country. Most people who develop the disease are adults (90%), with more cases among men than women. Based on the latest WHO Global TB Report, about 85% of people who develop TB disease can be successfully treated with a 6-month drug regimen and regimens of 1 – 6 months can be used to treat TB infection. Thus, the key to eradicate TB is to educate the workforce on how to formulate and implement a TB prevention and control program in the workplace.

**Advocacy.** The Philippine Business for Social Progress as principal recipient of The Global Fund Grant for TB in the Philippines has contracted Cullion Foundation, Inc. to establish TB core teams among identified groups who will advocate the establishment of TB policies and programs in workplaces especially in MSMEs. The Safety Officers and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committees in the economic zones may be able to help reach out to target MSMEs / service providers.

**Town Hall Meeting.** PEZA, in partnership with Cullion Foundation, Inc., will introduce a project on TB in workplaces which aims to give technical assistance to workplaces in the creation and implementation of TB-related policies, programs, and activities. The presenter is **Dr. John Jefferson V. Besa**, Project Lead.

We invite **Safety Officers** and members of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) committees to participate in the event. The invitation may also be shared with service providers who the OSH committee believe may benefit from the event. This will be held on **30 August 2022, (Tuesday) 10am – 11 am**. The link to the town hall meeting will be provided to those who will register online.

The pre-registration form for the virtual briefing may be accessed through this link:  
[bit.ly/TBworkplace](https://bit.ly/TBworkplace)

For the guidance of all concerned.



<sup>1</sup> WHO Global Tuberculosis 2021 Report. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240037021>  
<sup>2</sup> Stop TB Partnership Philippines. <https://www.stoptb.org/philippines-crg-country-profile>

