

January 22, 2019

Secretary Silvestre Bello
Department of Labor and Employment
7th Floor DOLE Building
Intramuros, Manila
1002
Philippines

Dear Secretary Bello:

Subject: Support for Hanjin Workers

I write on behalf of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, its nearly 100 affiliated local unions, and 60,000 affiliated union members. We are a regional labour central in British Columbia, Canada, chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Recently our friends at Hanjin Shipyard Workers' Organization (SAMAHAN) and the Workers for People's Liberation (WPL) have made us aware of the difficult situation facing Hanjin workers.

As you are no doubt aware, Hanjin Philippines is suffering major losses and the result is that many of their workers are being let go. We understand that at present approximately 4,000 workers remain in the Hanjin yard. This is a stark reduction from the 33,000 who worked there at its peak in 2017, even the 16,000 in February 2018.

The removal of more than 3,000 more workers has been announced for the coming months. A mere 300 workers are anticipated to remain.

The Hanjin Shipyard Workers' Organization (SAMAHAN) and the Workers for People's Liberation (WPL), the labor center which includes SAMAHAN are making an important set of demands aimed at protecting the livelihood and wellbeing of the workers who now find themselves without work, at no fault of their own. We understand those demands to be as follows:

1. To ensure affected workers are provided with the appropriate separation pay;

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Re: Hanjin

2. To ensure workers receive a corresponding unemployment subsidiary until new work can be found to help offset the cost of food, housing, schooling, and medical expenses of unemployed employees of Hanjin and their family; and
3. To ensure these workers return to work if and when operations restart at the shipyard, with a written and legally binding agreement between Hanjin Management, workers, and DOLE.

We express our support for these demands, the Hanjin workers, and their union, SAMAHAN, and call upon you to act on them as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Stephen von Sychowski
President

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