**Consultative Meeting on Labour Law Reforms**

The Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment in Sri Lanka is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of labour laws. The Thulawa Association of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo took part in the 06th public consultative meeting which was held on the 26th of May, 2023 at the Ministry of Labour. The meeting was graced by the esteemed presence of the Minister of Labour, the Commissioner of Labour, and several high-ranking officials from the labor ministry.

With an acute sense of purpose, the Thulawa Association presented an array of reformation suggestions that spanned the gamut of labour-related issues. The suggested reforms were based on comprehensive research delved into critical areas such as Health and Safety, Employment of Women, Settlement of Disputes, Termination, and the Informal Sector, which the Association undertook when the Ministry announced that it is looking forward to reform the labour law of Sri Lanka. This thorough investigation provided a solid foundation for the reformative proposals put forward by the Thulawa Association, reflecting their commitment to enhancing the welfare of workers and the overall labour environment in the country.

The public consultative meetings were a platform for rigorous discussions, where the Thulawa Association's representatives presented their findings and suggestions. The Commissioner of Labour and other ministry officials were keen participants in these discussions, signifying the Government's commitment to transparency and inclusivity in policymaking. The recommendations presented by the Association mirrored not only the students' intellectual prowess but also their empathetic understanding of the challenges faced by workers across various sectors.

Health and Safety was a central point of concern among the reformative proposals of the Thulawa Association, encompassing measures to ensure the well-being of workers across industries. By emphasizing the need for robust safety protocols and adequate support systems, the students demonstrated their grasp of the practical realities of workplace conditions. Similarly, their suggestions regarding the Employment of Women addressed gender equality issues and stressed the need to repeal gender discriminative laws and regulations, which are prevalent in the labour sector. Thus, the Thulawa Association sought to create an environment where female employees can thrive without discrimination or obstacles.

The discourse on Settlement of Disputes and Termination echoed the Association's commitment to a fair and balanced labor ecosystem. The suggestions offered insights into creating smoother conflict resolution mechanisms and establishing just grounds for termination, thereby fostering a more harmonious employer-employee relationship.

Perhaps one of the most forward-looking aspects of the Thulawa Association's recommendations was their focus on the Informal Sector. Recognizing the sizable contribution of this sector to the national economy, the undergraduates advocated for better rights and protections for informal workers. This progressive stance reflects a holistic understanding of the labor landscape, acknowledging the significance of even those segments that might not be conventionally recognized.

The Minister commenting on the reformative proposals made by the Thulawa Association, recognized the significance of engaging the younger generation in shaping the nation's policies, particularly those concerning labour laws that directly impact the workforce and economic growth. He conveyed the government's appreciation for academia's input and the willingness to collaborate with undergraduates to foster progressive changes.

In conclusion, the Thulawa Association of the Faculty of Law at the University of Colombo has made an indelible mark on the discourse surrounding labor law reform in Sri Lanka. Their painstaking research and insightful suggestions presented during the sixth public consultative meeting have showcased their commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of workers. The Minister of Labour's commendation of their efforts underscores the importance of such student-driven initiatives in shaping a brighter future for the labor force and the nation's economy. This collaboration between academia and government sets a promising precedent for inclusive and progressive policy-making processes in Sri Lanka.