

The Present Labor Laws: Their Importance to National Interest in the Philippines

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The Author, former Minister of Labor, delivered this Article as part of the Gregorio Araneta Lecture Series, in February 1988, at the Ateneo de Manila University Law School. The work commences with a recognition that the past years have brought barriers to the passage of meaningful and responsive labor laws that can push the country's economic development. The Author notes that the bulk of labor disputes cover labor relations cases, thus, the imminent need to address the lack or inadequacy of laws on the matter. He goes on to appraise the existing labor laws on the issues of strikes, lockouts, temporary or permanent closures, illegal dismissals, etc. Finally, he concludes saying that there is an urgent need to set policy directions that will more comprehensively represent the worker's rights and welfare. This is to encourage greater participation in production and hasten economic development. Correspondingly, laws, guidelines, and measures should be drafted to achieve the goal of industrial peace and economic development. This can only be done if the government heeds the strong clamor of labor for the repeal of repressive laws and measures, which trace their roots to the Marcos rule.