



8 January 2020

The National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) summoned both the University and the Ateneo de Manila University Employees and Workers Union (AEWU) to a conciliation conference on Tuesday, 7 January 2020 in relation to the pending Notice of Strike filed by the AEWU.

Prior to the January 7 conference, however, the University through its lawyers filed a written request asking the NCMB to dismiss the Union's Notice of Strike, because the ground raised in the Notice is "non-strikeable." The University's lawyers point out that –

- Resorting to a Notice of Strike is premature, because the parties have not even deadlocked in their collective bargaining negotiations;
- There is no legal basis for the Union's demand in its Notice, since the University has already provided relevant data to the Union as required by Article 242 of the Labor Code;
- The list of documents demanded by the Union pertain to information about other Ateneo employees who are not part of the Union's bargaining unit, and if provided may compromise the University's bargaining position; and
- Any strike activity conducted on this basis is legally questionable.

The University's counsel asked the NCMB to resolve the University's request before continuing with any further conciliation proceedings - including the conference scheduled yesterday.

The NCMB has yet to formally act on the University's request, but - pursuant to its mandate to conciliate labor disputes - scheduled another conference on Friday, 10 January 2020.

Let us continue to pray for an eventual and amicable settlement to this dispute.

Fr Jose Mario C Francisco, SJ
Co-Chair, Administration Panel

Ma Aurora B Bulatao
Co-Chair, Administration Panel