

WINNING TRADE UNION RIGHTS

Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) in the Philippines achieved a historic milestone in April 2026 by securing official government registration of their union, Maka-BHW Pilipinas. They received the registration from the Philippines' Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). This recognition strengthens their ability to engage with governments at all levels.

This is more than a legal step. It affirms that community health work is real work.



BHWs, the term used for Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the Philippines, have long been treated as “volunteers.” Through collective organising and unity, they have now gained long-overdue recognition as workers. They are asserting their right to dignity, fair wages, social protection, and collective bargaining like all workers.

Going forward, they are advancing key demands, including the Magna Carta for BHWs, which calls for formal employment status, social security, hazard pay, and full labour rights.

“Maka-BHW Pilipinas’ registration is significant as this establishes their legitimacy and broadens their opportunities for representation to engage with government at all levels. This is also reflective of PSI’s commitment to genuine, grassroots labour organising focused on participation and workers’ empowerment towards systemic change.”



Annie Enriquez-Geron, PSLINK PUBLIK’s National President and PSI Vice President



Medina Manto, president of Maka-BHW Pilipinas, receiving Certificate of Registration as a sectoral labour federation from the Philippines’ Dept of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Ernesto Bitonio.

Scan the QR code to learn more about PSI’s CHW campaign and support the fight for their rights.

