



EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Volume No. 10
Issue No. 2 for 2014

e-REPORTER

The Official Newsletter of the Employees' Compensation Commission

ECC and SSS now cover Filipino employees of the European Union of the Philippines, says Baldoz



DOLE Undersecretary Ciriaco A. Lagunzad, ECC Board Chairman-Designate listens intently as ECC Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis presents ECC's proposed policies during the ECC's Board meeting held at the ECC Multi-purpose Hall on February 19, 2014.

Labor and Employment Secretary **Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz** recently said that the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) and the Social Security System (SSS) signed an agreement with the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines (DEUP) last 16 December 2013 for the coverage under the Employees' Compensation Law and the Social Security Law of the Filipino employees of DEUP.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis, SSS President and CEO Emilio S. De Quiros, Jr., and the DEUP Ambassador, His Excellency Guy Ledoux.

According to Secretary Baldoz, Director Banawis has reported that through the agreement, all Filipino employees working for DEUP will be entitled to the benefits of ECC such as loss of income benefit, medical, rehabilitation services, carer's allowance

Continued on next page

Intensified ECP information drive benefits PNP personnel in Region 10

Cagayan de Oro City – The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) conducted an information drive on the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) in January, 2014 in three different offices of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Region 10.

It was recently announced by Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz that the ECP covers uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Under the GSIS Law, Republic Act No. 8291, AFP and PNP personnel are not covered by the GSIS, but still they are covered by the ECP under the Presiden-

Continued on next page



Dr. Raymond Bañaga, Medical Officer III, explains the preventive and rehabilitative aspects of the Employees' Compensation Program to 118 human resource officers and labor union representatives during the ECC Advocacy seminar in Balanga City, Bataan which was held at the Crown Royale Hotel on February 13, 2014.

In 2013, ECC achieves 100% disposition rate in appealed case resolution

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) obtained a 100% disposition rate in the 171 appealed cases elevated by its administering agencies, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) for CY 2013. The 100% rate is until the cut-off date of November 20, 2013.

Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said that it is the first time that the ECC achieved a 100% disposition rate since its inception in 1975.

Director Banawis added that out of the 171 cases, 121 were from the SSS and 50 cases were elevated by the GSIS.

Fourteen percent (14%) or 24 cases were decided in favour of the claimants or for grant of employees' compensation benefits, while 86% or 121 cases were affirmations of the GSIS or SSS' decisions.

Out of the 24 cases for award of benefits, 19 cases were from the SSS while 5 cases were from the GSIS.

The 19 cases for benefit grants in the private sector are as follows: 9 for temporary total disability benefits, 5 for permanent partial disability benefits, 4 for death benefits and 1 for medical reimbursement.

In the public sector, temporary total disability also comprised the largest share in the grant of benefits which posted 3 cases and 2 cases were for medical reimbursements.

"Eighty percent of the cases resolved or 136 cases were actually decided within 40-working days process cycle time," Banawis finally said.

One of the cases resolved within the process cycle time is the case of **Johnhanton C. Morales vs. SSS**. Morales was previously employed by Elburg Ship Management Phils., Inc as Able Seaman. However, he was repatriated to the Philippines due to a work-related illness. He was diagnosed as suffering from Cervical Disc Protrusion.

The SSS granted him EC Permanent Partial Disability (EC PPD) benefit of 10% of the body equivalent to 8 months allowance for his disorder. However, Morales believed that he is entitled to additional EC disability benefits and filed his claim with SSS. But SSS denied his claim because Morales already received his maximum EC PPD benefits. Thus, the records of his claim were elevated to the ECC on June 2, 2013. Based on the Schedule of Compensation, ECC deemed that Morales is entitled to additional EC PPD benefits of 1 month. ECC issued its order on July 2, 2013 ordering SSS to pay Mr. Morales the additional EC PPD benefits. ECC was able to dispose this case in 30 days.

The case of Morales is one of the 136 cases that was decided by the ECC within the process cycle time of 40 working days.

Intensified ECP ... from front page

tial Decree No. 626, as amended. The EC contributions of the uniformed men are collected by the GSIS from their agencies," Baldoz explained.

The ECC personnel in Region 10 conducted the ECP information drive at the following PNP offices: Cagayan de Oro City Police Office; Regional Public Safety Battalion – 10; and Iligan City Police Office.

A total of 178 uniformed personnel

from the three offices attended the information campaign, which extensively discussed the EC benefits and the process of filling their claims with the GSIS branch nearest to their place of work or residence.

The EC benefits available for the uniformed personnel are loss of income benefit (or sickness benefit); medical benefit; carer's allowance; and rehabilitation services such as physical restoration, skills training for re-employment, entrepreneurship training, under the EC KaGabay Program.

The PNP personnel in Region 10 appreciated the efforts of the ECC, through the help of the PNP – Headquarters.

ECC and SSS now ... from front page

and death benefits.

The DEUP will pay the employer's contribution in accordance with the schedules provided by the SSS and it will also deduct certain amount from employees' salary for their contribution. In addition, DEUP will also pay for its employees EC contribution.

The SSS Law or the Republic Act No. 8282 provides that any foreign government, international organization or their wholly-owned instrumentality employing workers in the Philippine or employing Filipinos outside of the Philippines may enter into an agreement with the Philippine government for the inclusion of such employees in the SSS coverage.

"ECC, together with the SSS, is constantly meeting with various embassies and international organizations for possible agreement of coverage of social benefits under the EC Law and SSS Law of their Filipino employees," Baldoz said.

"Filipino employees will greatly benefit from this agreement. I hope that other embassies and international organizations will be encouraged, as well, to enroll their Filipino employees with the ECC and the SSS," she added.



ECC Chief Information Officer Ma. Cecilia E. Maulion gives an overview of the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) during an in-house seminar for the Sergeant-Majors and other members of the Philippine Marines held at the ECC Multi-purpose Hall on February 20, 2014.

The ECC Reporter

Published by the

Employees' Compensation Commission

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