



THE GOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS	WHY GOOD NEWS
<p>GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>1. First time to conduct consultation meetings with SSS Branches in Tarlac City and Baguio City to discuss issues and concerns on employees' compensation claims frequently encountered by the evaluators in those branches.</p>	<p>One of the powers and duties of the Commission is to <i>approve rules and regulations governing the processing of claims and the settlement of disputes arising therefrom as prescribed by the System.</i>¹</p> <p>From March 22 to 23, 2012, the ECC Secretariat, through Atty. Jonathan T. Villasoto, Atty. Arthur E. Abat, and Dr. Raymond C. Banaga, conducted Consultation Meetings with SSS Tarlac City Branch and SSS Baguio City Branch for purposes of discussion on the issues and concerns on EC claims which are encountered by evaluators in those branches. Numerous EC appealed cases in Luzon come mostly from these two branches.</p> <p>The Secretariat also discussed and clarified the EC resolutions on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Admissibility of Electronic Filing of Sickness, Injuries, and Death of Covered Members as Compliance under Art. 205 of P.D. 626, as amended (dated Aug. 14, 2009);" 2. "Prescribing the Amount of Reimbursement of Medicines in Accordance with Republic Act No. 9502 otherwise known as 'Universally Accessible Cheaper Quality Medicines Act No. 2008' and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (dated September 25, 2009);" 3. "Policy on Returning the Suspended EC Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefits (dated Feb. 26, 2010);" 4. "Clarifying the Rules on Prescription under P.D. 626, as amended (dated March 17, 2010);" 5. "Policy on Evaluation of Incidental Findings (dated April 28, 2010);" 6. Policy on the Period of Evaluation of EC claims (dated Sept. 2, 2010); 7. Policy on the Granting of EC death benefits to EC PTD pensioner (dated Sept. 2, 2010); 8. Policy on the Venue of Filing of EC claims (dated October 20, 2010); 9. "Setting the Reckoning Date of the Three-Year Prescriptive Period in the Evaluation of Employees' Claims for Permanent Total Disability (PTD [dated April 28, 2011]);" 10. "Amending the Conditions for Compensability of Cardiovascular Diseases, Essential Hypertension, and Cerebrovascular Accidents under Annex "A" of the Amended Rules on Employees' Compensation (dated May 26, 2011);" 11. "Revising the Conditions for the Compensability of Pulmonary Tuberculosis under Annex "A" of the Amended Rules on Employees' Compensation (dated November 28, 2011);"

¹ Section (c) of Art. 177 of PD 626, as amended

<p>2. 3rd meeting of the TRP reviewing the compensability of pulmonary conditions</p>	<p>12. "Declaring the Compensability of Injuries and Its Resulting Disability or Death Sustained by Stay-In Local Employees within the Quarters Furnished by the Employers (dated January 17, 2012);"</p> <p>13. "Declaring the Compensability of Death of an Employee due to Assault when the same occurred in the course of the Performance of Official Functions notwithstanding the fact that the Motive is Personal in Nature (dated March 9, 2012);"</p> <p>The Commission is authorized to determine and approved additional occupational diseases and work-related illnesses with specific criteria based on peculiar hazards of employment.²</p> <p>Last March 20, 2012 the Technical Review Panel (TRP) composed of representatives from SSS, BWC, OSHC, DOH, PhilCAT, Philippine College of Chest Physicians and ECC had a consultation meeting at the ECC Multipurpose Hall to revalidate the proposed amendments to Pneumonia and Bronchial Asthma based on the February 1, 2012 meeting and to discuss the proposed amendments on the conditions of compensability of Pneumoconiosis and Asbestosis.</p> <p>The objective of the TRP is to provide a solid and clear platform for fair and consistent policies that will be used in modifying the present conditions for compensability of occupational diseases.</p>
<p>3. Regular posting of status of EC appealed cases in DOLE website.</p>	<p>Reform labor arbitration and adjudication systems by streamlining procedures, removing red tape, and at the same time, restore integrity and fairness in the system.³</p> <p>Minimizes "person-to-person" contact; eliminates fixers; and removes opportunities for corruption.</p>
<p>4. Deployment of 2nd batch of ECC staff at the ECC Regional Extension Units</p>	<p>Deployment of ECC Staff at Regional Offices⁴</p> <p>For March 2012 ECC has deployed 4 staff at the ECC Regional Extension Units in RO VII, IX, XII and CAR. They were hired as casual employees except for the staff in Cebu City where she requested for transfer. They attended the Orientation Program last February 2012 for them to be aware and understand the agency's goals, structure, vision, mission and policies. It also helped them understand their role and contribution in the achievement of the goal of the agency.</p> <p>To date, 7 staff are already deployed in the regions, 3 of them were hired last July 2011 at the ECC Regional Extension Units in RO X in Cagayan de Oro.</p>

² Rule III, Section 3 of the Amended Rules on Compensation

³ # 6 of the President's 22-Point Agenda on Labor and Employment

⁴ OPCR Instructions of SecRDB on August 4, 2011

SOCIAL PROTECTION

1. 2nd year of Awarding of Successful ODW Entrepreneurs and ODW-Friendly Enterprise

The Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang May Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program is a special economic assistance program initiated by the ECC for occupationally-disabled workers (ODWs) who lost employment by reason of work-related sickness or injury. The KaGabay Program provides for physical restoration which aims to restore the physical and functional capacity of the ODWs through physical and occupational therapy, skills training for possible re-employment and entrepreneurship training for small or home-based business.

The Employees' Compensation Commission celebrated its 37th Anniversary on March 17, 2012 through a month-long series of activities. One of the activities was the awarding of successful ODW entrepreneurs and ODW-friendly enterprises. Undersecretary Lourdes M. Trasmonte in her speech emphasized that "*Hindi hadlang ang kapansanan sa magandang kinabukasan!*" She also recognized those employers who re-employed or re-hired workers who suffered from work-related disabilities. Undersecretary Trasmonte together with OIC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis presented the Successful ODW Entrepreneur Awards to Mr. Martin J. Albores and Mr. Jonathan Tapan. SPI Corporation and Safeway Customs Brokerage also received Plaque of Recognition for being ODW-friendly companies.

Mr. Martin J. Albores had right eye retinopathy. He received his EC claim benefit amounting to P117,875.00. He availed the KaGabay Program and took up Computer Hardware Servicing on July 2010 and Adobe Photoshop on July 2011 but his computer shop business started on February 2011 and on February 2012 he expanded his business by acquiring a franchise of Global Pinoy Remittance Services (GPRS).

Mr. Jonathan Tapan suffered permanent partial disability when his spinal cord was injured on December 2008 was unable to return to work. Thru the Program, he had physical therapy sessions. On June 2010 he enrolled in "How to start a water refilling station". His water refilling station started operations on September 2010 using his EC claim benefit of P33,181.36 as seed capital. His business was officially inaugurated on April 2011. On May 2011 he availed again the Program and enrolled in "Certificate Course for Water Refilling and Plant Owners". He has expanded his water business and to date, he is the official water supplier of the ECC for its drinking water needs.

2. EC claims amounting to P49,712.12 awarded to 8 claimants/beneficiaries

The ECC-Quick Response to ODWs Program provides immediate assistance to workers or their families within a week in the event of major work accidents or outbreak of occupational diseases at the workplace. The ECC intervention includes psycho-social counseling services, medical help and assistance in the filing and claiming of the necessary benefits with the System

For March 2012, the ECC facilitated the release of EC claims benefits upon submission of complete documents of 8 claimants/beneficiaries amounting to P49,712.12.

3. First time to conduct an awareness seminar on ECP among Occupational Health Nurses


This Employees Compensation Program (ECP) is designed to increase public awareness through ECP information dissemination and to ensure at all times that workers are informed of their rights, benefits and privileges under the ECP.

On March 23, 2012, the ECC sponsored a half-day seminar on the ECP, Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang May Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program and Quick Response Programs at the ECC Multipurpose Hall. It was attended by 20 Occupational Health Nurses from different companies. At the end of the lecture, they are expected to assist and guide workers of their respective companies in the availment of EC benefits in the event of work-connected injury, diseases and death.

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April 3, 2012
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