



# EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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## e-REPORTER

The Official Newsletter of the Employees' Compensation Commission

**Mrs. Evelyn Ruth Soriano**, a midwife for about 19 years at Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, suffered from lumbar vertebral dislocation due to a slipping accident at work. For 2 years she was under physical therapy and medication, but still went to work. When she finally resigned, she started a sari-sari store to sustain her family of 5 with 3 minor kids. While she received SSS and EC disability benefits for 15 months, their bills and necessities were too much to handle especially so that her husband had no regular job, leading to her hopelessness and frustration.

Mrs. Soriano, however, came to know of KaGabay Program. She then signed up for the said program and attended its out-sourced trainings on the making of dishwashing liquid, fabric conditioner, laundry powder, and on meat processing. She also availed of free physical therapy sessions and brace to support her

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## A Midwife's Rise to Action under the KaGabay Program



**Evelyn Ruth Soriano** (middle) flashes her Certificate of Completion during the graduation ceremony of the "Curriculum Based Training: Start Your Own Business Enterprises" (CBT-SYOBE) conducted by the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) on February 6, 2013. Flanking her are **Dr. Melba Y. Sacro** (left), Chief of ECC's Work Contingency Prevention and Rehabilitation Division (WCPRD) and **Nancy Bonto** (right), ECC Social Welfare Officer II. Mrs. Soriano graduated from the CSE seminar, taking the award as one of the "Most Promising Entrepreneur" under the ECC's KaGabay Program.

## ECC has given me livelihood opportunities, says worker



**Wilito Tulio** proudly shows his prosthetic arm to **Gene Franco Galicia**, a staff of ECC Information and Public Assistance Division (IPAD). Wilito was granted a right arm prosthesis coupled with physical therapy sessions under the ECC KaGabay Program.

On January 4, 2010, **Wilito Tulio**, a 58 year- old resident of Caloocan City,

met an accident while on his way to work which resulted in the amputation of his right arm.

Tulio had been working at the ECCO Printing Press for around 36 years until the day the unfortunate incident occurred. His employer entrusted to him the general operations of the printing business. He started his employment for the same company as a helper and had been assigned to different areas of the business, until he was given the position of an operations supervisor.

Due to his disability, Tulio resigned from work.

However, he was able to claim a lump sum cash income benefit from the

SSS and a monthly amount of P8,800 per month for 50 months for his EC permanent partial disability benefit under the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP).

In addition to the monetary benefits, he was also enrolled under the ECC-KaGabay Program (Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan) as one of its beneficiaries. The Ka-Gabay Program is a special economic assistance program for occupationally-disabled workers (ODWs) who suffered a work-related sickness or injury.

The program granted him a right arm prosthesis coupled with physical therapy sessions. The therapy sessions were con-

*Continued on next page*

## ECC has given me.... from front page

ducted at the Philippine General Hospital, and was intended to accustom him to the use of his newly attached artificial arm.

Tulio was also able to take advantage of the KaGabay sponsored entrepreneurial trainings, equipping him with basic business management knowledge, and a series of livelihood trainings like hog raising, soap making, among others.

At present, he is working with his former employer as a supervisor in an intermittent basis. He is likewise engaged in rag making, which he regularly supplies to printing press establishments and other retailers. At the same time, he is an active member of a cooperative managed and organized with other ODW beneficiaries of the KaGabay.

He further added that although the accident was devastating, the ECC, through its various programs, gave him and his family livelihood opportunities.

## A Midwife's Rise.... from front page

low back area.

She even completed a seminar on "How to Start Your Own Business Enterprise" (SYOBE) conducted by the Center for Small Entrepreneurs under the auspices of the said Program. She graduated from the SYOBE seminar with the award as one of its "Most Promising Entrepreneurs".

Mrs. Soriano took to heart all the trainings and seminar under the Program as she previously made and sold dishwashing liquid, fabric conditioner, and laundry powder. Further at present, she is into the making and selling burger patties, pork & chicken ham, siomai, chicken sandwich, peanut butter, biko, maja blanca. Her husband helps in the business. And so far, they are able to sustain the family's basic needs with their newfound endeavor outside the employment setting. But to push her business further, Mrs. Soriano hopes to secure additional assistance on the capital and marketing side with the recently set up ODWs Cooperative formed amongst KaGabay beneficiaries.

# ECC does not only provide benefits, but also hope, says worker



*Wearing his prosthetic arm granted under the ECC KaGabay Program, Marcial Rodaje tells Mr. Eroll Dacame, host of the PTV4 program Special Report, how a tragic accident which resulted in his disability shattered his dream of working abroad. Marcial is currently employed at Solid Tech. Services, and is receiving monthly benefits under SSS and ECP.*

**Marcial Rodaje**, a 39 year-old resident of Caloocan City, was employed as a mechanic at the Solid Tech. Services, an engine rebuilding company in Caloocan City. While at work, he met an accident when the beam of the fixed crane he was repairing accidentally fell, severing then his right arm.

The incident happened on October 2, 2009, when Rodaje, together with a fellow mechanic, was doing some repair works on a crane which broke after it had been partially submerged by the flood. It was during the repair when the beam of the crane fell and caught the arm of Rodaje.

This resulting disability shattered his dream of someday working abroad or even being employed in big local companies. He became depressed and lost his hope.

While he was still at the hospital recuperating, his wife processed his SSS and EC claims. According to him, it only took several days after submission of the complete documentary requirements for the SSS to evaluate his case and grant him the benefits due. A monthly benefit amounting to P10,000 for 50 months, 4,000 of which is from SSS and 6,000 from the ECP, was given, he added.

Rodaje was thereafter enrolled as a beneficiary of ECC-KaGabay Program (Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapananan). The KaGabay Program is a special economic assistance program for occupationally-disabled workers (ODWs) who suffered a work-related sickness or injury.

The program provided him counseling services and a right arm prosthesis with physical therapy sessions. The therapy sessions were

conducted at the Philippine General Hospital, and was intended for him to accustom him to the use of his newly attached artificial arm.

At present, he is putting up a small canteen near his residence as an additional source of income.

He is also attending the ECC-KaGabay sponsored livelihood and entrepreneurial trainings. He even became a member/founder of a cooperative organized with other ODWs, pooling their resources together in putting up viable businesses.

According to him, the programs of the Employees' Compensation Commission is not limited to monetary benefits, it also provides hope to ODWs who have lost faith in themselves after being disabled.



*With high hopes and happy faces, occupationally-disabled workers (ODWs) clown in front of the camera during the Curriculum Based Training on Start Your Own Business Enterprise (CBT-SYOBE) graduation ceremony held at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall on February 6, 2013. As the first batch graduates of CBT-SYOBE, the group also formed the ODW Credit Cooperative, the first credit cooperative ever to be established by ODWs in the country.*

## The ECC Reporter

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