



EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz (inset) delivers the opening remarks during the Employees' Compensation Commission's (ECC) 38th Founding Anniversary celebration held at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall on March 18, 2013.

ECC: Going great @ 38

The Employees' Compensation Commission celebrates its 38th founding anniversary on March 15, 2013. A program was held on March 18, 2013, to commemorate this auspicious event at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall, attended by Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Labor Undersecretary Ciriaco Lagunzad III, former Labor Undersecretary Lourdes Trasmonte, DOLE-NCR Director Atty. Alan Macaraya, ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis, OSHC Executive Director Dr. Teresita Cucueco, BLES Director Ma. Teresa Peralta, members of the ECC Board of Commissioners, other officials of the Department of Labor and Employment, representatives of media outfits, the ECC-Kagabay ODW beneficiaries, and officers and employees of the Employees' Compensation Commission.

The program highlighted the presentation of the ECC institutional video, which exhibited the various

programs and policies of the commission; the awarding of the check from the Department of Labor and Employment amounting to P125,000.00 for the ODW beneficiaries; the tribute and serenade for the out-going members of the Board of Commissioners; and the welcoming of the new members of the Board, with Usec. Lagunzad III, as the new ECC Chairman-Alternate.

Secretary Baldoz, the Chairman of the ECC Board of Commissioners, during her 'message' commended the ECC and its employees for its dedication and commitment to provide social protection to the public. She also challenged the ECC to come up with more innovative policies and programs for the greater benefit of the workers, particularly in increasing the amount of benefits. She further added that it is high time to devise a scheme to expedite the claim process, for a prompt grant of employees' compensation benefits.

Stella Z. Banawis, new Executive Director of the ECC

Stella Z. Banawis is the new executive director and chief executive officer of the Employees' Compensation Commission. "Ma'am Stella" as she is fondly called by her staff, was born on May 6, 1962 in Cabagan, Isabela. She spent her childhood at her birthplace where she attended her primary and secondary education.

Director Stella started her government service a year after her college graduation at the University of the Philippines- Diliman Campus, with the degree of AB Economics, in 1983.

She began her career in public service at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration as an Overseas Employment Officer at the Market Development Department, to becoming a Deputy Administrator in the Licensing and Adjudication Office.

ECC employees intimated that Director Stella is very approachable, such that they can easily bring to her any concerns relative to official duties without any hesitation. They added that she

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Employees' Compensation Commission Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis takes her oath to DOLE Secretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz during the Oath-taking ceremony held at the Office of the Secretary, DOLE Building on February 13, 2013. ED Banawis is the first lady Executive Director of the ECC.

TUCP visits ECC



In photo (seated from left): Gerard R. Seno-TUCP General Secretary; Stella Zipagan-Banawis-ECC Executive Director; Victorino F. Balais-TUCP President; (standing from left) Ma Cecilia E. Maulion-ECC Chief, IPAD; Aurora Y. Quilandrino-ECC Chief-PPSMD; Ramon Certaza-TUCP, Assistant General Secretary; Gerry Rivera-TUCP, Member, Executive Board; Manny Gan-TUCP and Ms. Myra Doncilla, TUCP, Adm. Staff.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) paid a courtesy call to the Employees' Compensation Commission on 6 March 2013 in order to explore areas of cooperation and collaboration for the benefit of the workers.

The TUCP team led by its president Victorino F. Balais and General Secretary Gerard R. Seno, also introduced the new set of officers of the said workers' organization to ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis and some ECC officials.

Director Banawis introduced the ECC and the ECP. Challenges and future plans were expounded in the way forward presentation.

The visit ensured closer linkage between the two organizations as the TUCP vowed to help in promoting the ECP through its various meetings, seminars, and trainings to intensify awareness on the EC Program.

ECC provides new conditions for compensability of lung ailments; and adds two other lung diseases in the list of occupational and work-related diseases

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) recently amended the conditions for compensability of **pneumoconiosis, pneumonia, bronchial asthma, asbestosis, and other lung diseases**. The new conditions for compensability of the said diseases are the following:

For **pneumoconiosis**, the worker must have been exposed to mineral dust subject to the condition that it will be supported by pertinent medical examination after considering a reasonable latency period.

In case of **pneumonia**, there must have been an occupational risk, such as in the cases of health care workers who are exposed to outbreaks and bird handlers who are exposed to cryptococcus. It may also be a complication of a primary work connected illness or injury or a complication of chemical inhalational exposure such as among welders exposed to iron fumes.

Occupational asthma, on the other hand, is compensable if there was no past medical history of asthma before employment. The claim must be accompanied with clinical diagnosis consistent with occupational asthma and there must be workplace exposure to agents which will give rise to the disease.

As for asbestos-related diseases, the worker must have been exposed, for a sufficient duration, to dust in the workplace. The findings must be sup-

ported with appropriate diagnostic test like chest x-ray and the like. The illness must have a latency period of 10 years or more and it must be accompanied with impaired lung function except for lung cancer and mesothelioma.

The ECC also added two lung diseases in the list of compensable illnesses in order to keep up with the recent development in the field of occupational medicine. These are hypersensitivity pneumonitis and byssinosis.

In order for hypersensitivity pneumonitis to be compensable, the worker must have been exposed for a sufficient duration to an antigen known to cause the disease in the workplace. Such, however, must be certified by the employer or competent medical practitioner subject to the submission of diagnostic tests consistent with the diagnosis. While, the compensability of byssinosis requires that the worker must have been exposed to cotton dust for a sufficient duration, and must have been supported by a diagnostic test.

Employees' Compensation claims for work-connected sickness or injury are filed at the Social Security System for the private sector and the GSIS for the government sector.

For detailed conditions for compensability under the EC Program, please call 899-42-51 or 52 or visit our website at www.ecc.gov.ph.

"Higit pa sa benepisyo ang binibigay na serbisyo."

Stella Z. Banawis, new...from front page

is a friendly boss, a soft-spoken person, considerate, and a good listener. An ECC employee opined that Ma'am Stella is very 'motherly', considering the fact that a lot of her officemates are her senior.

Nevertheless, when it comes to official performance, she is a go-getter, a persistent motivator, and a firm leader. These are some of her attributes honed at the National Defense College of the Philippines when she had her Masters in National Security Administration.

She also attended numerous trainings, seminars, and workshops, both local and overseas.

Noteworthy are her citations as an outstanding employee of the POEA in 1990, as an outstanding Alumnus of the National Defense College of the Philippines in 2009, among others.

She is focused on strengthening the mission of ECC in promoting a safety environment in every workplace; in intensifying the ECP information dissemination drive; in developing innovative policies and programs which directly addresses the concerns of workers with work-related contingencies; in uplifting the benefits provided to ODWs and their beneficiaries; in widening the areas of rehabilitation for the ODWs; and in safeguarding the integrity of the State Insurance Fund.

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ECC Bldg., 355 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue,
Makati City

Tel Nos. 899-4251 to 52 local 227 and 228
Fax No. 897-7597

Website: <http://www.ecc.gov.ph>

E-mail: ecc_mails@yahoo.com

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ecc.official

Exec. Dir. Stella Zipagan-Banawis
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