



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
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FEBRUARY 2013 GOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS	WHY GOOD NEWS
GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY	
From Despair to Hope: A Midwife's Rise to Action	<p data-bbox="574 506 899 537"><u>The KaGabay Beneficiary</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 569 1378 827">Mrs. Evelyn Ruth Soriano of Pasig City, was then the picture of a contented wife and mother, while working professionally in a private hospital. She was happily married to Mr. Melvyn Soriano and blessed with 3 kids all of minor ages. Her husband worked at a private company before but decided to get a chance at overseas work, so he resigned. Unfortunately, Mr. Soriano's plans did not push through due to disagreements with the final terms & conditions laid down by the supposed employer, so he was left jobless.</p> <p data-bbox="537 858 1378 953">On the other hand, Mrs. Soriano has been a staff midwife for close to 19 years at the Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, Manila before that fateful day in 8 August 2007.</p> <p data-bbox="574 984 732 1016"><u>The Incident</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 1047 1378 1562">Lourdes Hospital was abuzz with people on 8 August 2007, a Sunday, which is the regular general cleaning day. Mrs. Soriano was then on duty from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She was in the Operating Room at about 10:00 a.m. carrying some materials for duty, oblivious to the wet floor at some parts of the room. She accidentally stepped on a wet and slippery part, causing her to fall heavily on her bottom at a sitting position. Complaining of severe pain in the affected area and difficulty of standing up, she nonetheless carried on slowly with her work. She reported for work the next day, taking only medicines to assuage the pain. When she finally woke up one day to numbness of her right side of the body, she underwent medical consultation and laboratory examinations. Her CT-scan revealed L3-L4 dislocation in the lumbar area, so she was advised operation not only by her doctor but few other physicians. She refused this option so she was advised to go into regular therapy and medication.</p> <p data-bbox="574 1593 821 1625"><u>Painful Moving On</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 1656 1378 1850">Mrs. Soriano was eventually granted disability benefits for 15 months under SSS and EC laws. She continued to work as staff midwife at the hospital, but was besieged by so many leaves of absence and debts in order to get regular therapy, medication, professional consultation, and rest. Her husband was jobless while her take-home pay reached nil level several times. For close to 2</p>

