



Companies who fail to pay employees' EC contributions liable to pay for the EC benefits which are paid by SSS to the employees or their dependents - Baldoz

Labor and Employment Secretary and chairperson of the Employees' Compensation Commission Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz called the attention of all the employers to religiously pay their employees' Employees' Compensation contributions to avoid liability under Article 196 of Presidential Decree No. 626, as amended.

Baldoz explained that Article 196 of PD 626 clearly expresses that failure or refusal of the employer to pay or remit their EC contributions shall make the employer liable to the Social Security System (SSS) for the lump sum equivalent to the EC benefits which such employee or his dependents are entitled.

"The delinquency of the employer in paying his employees' compensation contributions shall not prejudice the rights of the employees. The affected employee can still claim his EC benefits notwithstanding non-payment by the employer of his EC contributions. However, the employer will pay for the value of the said benefits to the SSS," she said.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis clarified that the said provision of PD 626 aims to compel the companies to pay their employees' EC contributions for the protection of the employees and, themselves at the same time.

"This does not only benefit the employees but the employers, as well. Instead of spending large amount of money for hospital bills in case of work-related contingencies, they are only required to pay P10-30 per month per employee," she added.

Baldoz said that the goal of the ECC to provide an adequate and meaningful compensation to workers in the event of work-related contingencies will be futile if the ECC will not do anything to sanction the delinquent employers.

"It is the duty of the ECC to safeguard the rights of the Filipino workers and to ensure that, in case of work-related contingencies, they get the benefits due them," Banawis emphasized.



Dr. Sarah Antonia I. Concepcion and Jocelyn Denoga of the ECC Quick-Response Team console Mrs. Ada Santos (left), mother of Mr. Raymond Santos, during the team's visit at the Rizal Medical Center (RMC) on March 19, 2014. Raymond, an employee of AIMKO Agency, lost his right arm when it was caught by a machine while working at the Universal Robina Corporation (URC) in Pasig City.

ECC celebrates Women's Month

Workers of the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) joined more than 10,000 participants that set a new Guinness World Record in forming a giant woman's symbol at the Quirino Grandstand at Luneta Park in Manila last Saturday, a senior ECC official said.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said the agency has been a strong advocate of women empowerment because 72 percent of its workforce are women, including five division chiefs.

"ECC strongly believes that women empowerment is equivalent to national empowerment. Women's advancement leads to better quality of life for families and communities and a more stable and just society," Zipagan-Banawis said.

The Luneta event was part of the Women's

Month celebration. This year's theme was "Juana, ang tatag mo ay tatag nating lahat sa pagbangon at pagsulong."

Since ECC's 39th founding anniversary on March 17, 2014 falls during the celebration of Women's Month, the ECC has lined up the following activities to commemorate its twin celebration, thus: Anniversary celebration; in-house seminar for security agencies; launching of the Biggest Loser Competition for employees; Emergency Preparedness Orientation with Philvocs; and Film Showing depicting women empowerment.

The key women officers of ECC include Chairperson of the Board, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz; Executive Director Stella Banawis; Information and Public Assistance Division Chief Ma. Cecilia Maulion; Work Contingency Prevention and Rehabilitation Division Chief, Dr. Melba Sacro; Policy Programs System and Management Division Chief, Aurora Quilandrino; Finance Division Chief, Maria

ECC beefs up regional presence

The Employees' Compensation Commission recently hired new employees to man its regional extension units (REUs) in Regions 1 and 6 in response to the call of Labor and Employment Secretary and Chair of the ECC, Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz to bring ECC Programs and services closer to the regions.

The new REUs are located at the DOLE Regional offices in La Union (Region 1) in Region 6 (Iloilo City).

The REUs are auxiliary offices of the ECC for the information dissemination of the EC Program in different provinces and cities to ensure that the workers are informed of their rights, benefits and privileges under the EC Program.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said that the workers need to be aware of the benefits they could get from the ECC and we want them to provide easy access with the EC Programs.

ECC REUs also provide assistance through its Quick Response Program and Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan (KaGabay) under the Rehabilitation Services of the employees' compensation program.

Relative to EC appealed cases, the REU staff is authorized to accept from the claimants letters of appeal and/or records of EC claims which were denied at the branch of the concerned systems (GSIS/SSS) in the region and to transmit the same to their main offices for review purposes.

The ECC launched its first ever REU in 2011 in Region 10-Cagayan de Oro City. It was followed by four additional REUs in 2012 at Region 7-Cebu City; Region 9-Zamboanga City; Region 12-Koronadal City and Cordillera Administrative Region-Baguio City.

In September 2013, the ECC established six REUs: Region 2-Tuguegarao City; Region 3-Pampanga; Region 5-Legazpi City; Region 8-Tacloban City; Region 11-Davao City; and Region 13-butuan City.

"Plans to open an extension office in Region 4-B in Mindoro are also in the pipeline," added Banawis.

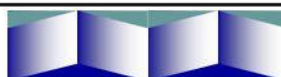
ECC-REUs are located in all DOLE Regional offices.

Former factory worker now a saleslady after receiving artificial finger from the ECC

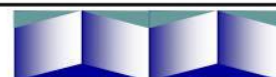
Jennifer Santos, a former machine operator in a candy factory, regained employment after receiving a cosmetic finger from the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC).

In January 2011, Santos was a machine operator in a candy factory when her right index finger was crushed by the machine she was operating.

She lost her job after sustaining amputation of her index finger.

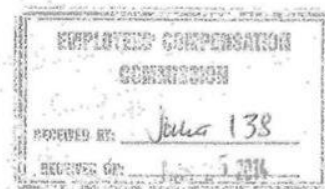


ECC Letter Corner



March 19, 2014

Ms. Stella Z. Banawis
Executive Director
Employees Compensation Commission
ECC Bldg., 355 Sen Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City



Dear Mam,

Taos puso po akong nagpapasalamat sa tulong na binigay niyo po sa akin, ang pagpadala po sa akin sa PGH to undergo Physical Therapy for my injured left knee. Ang therapy po ay nakatulong ng malaki para sa condition ng aking tuhod. Nahirapan po akong lumakad dahil sa sobrang sakit ng aking tuhod, lalo na sa tuwing umaakyat ako ng hagdanan. Sa tulong ng therapist at sa mga instructions niya kung ano ang dapat gagawin ay nakatulong po ito para mabawasan ang sakit ng aking tuhod. Ang sabi ng doctor ay kailangan maoperahan po ang aking tuhod dahil may torn ligament subalit hindi po ako mabigyan ng clearance dahil ang sabi po naman ng cardiologist na kailangan ko daw magpalagay ng pacemaker dahil may diperensiya po daw ang aking puso bago po akong puedeng maoperahan sa tuhod. Kaya hanggang ngayon po ay puro therapy lang ng aking tuhod ang puede kong gawin dahil wala naman po akong kakayahan na mag pa opera o magpalagay po ng pacemaker. Ako po ay nagpapasalamat at malaking tulong ang pagsagot niyo po ng financial para sa therapy ng aking tuhod.

Ako po ay nagagalak at ako po ay nakasali sa pagiging miyembro ng ODW Association lalo na sa ECC Staff sa pagtulong nila sa maraming may kapansanan. Sana po ay maging successful pa ang organization para marami pang matutulungan na may kapansanan. Sana magkaroon pa nang maraming iba't ibang programa para makatulong sa maraming mga may kapansanan at mabigyan kami na panibagong pag-asa sa buhay. Maraming salamat po.

Wish you more success and God Bless you always.

Sincerely yours,

Volouera
Lorenzo C. Dura

Upon learning that ECC helps persons with work-related disabilities, she immediately grabbed its helping hand.

On March 3, 2014, ECC provided Santos with a High Definition Silicone cosmetic right index finger worth P30,000.

With the provision of the artificial prosthesis, she does not feel incomplete anymore and gained back her self-confidence. Her new cosmetic finger helped her in getting a new work as a saleslady in a big mall in Manila.

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz stated that ECC has a program called Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan (KaGabay) which provides a special economic assistance for occupationally-disabled workers (ODWs) who lost employment by reason of work-related sickness or injury.

"The main objective of the program is to give ODWs a second chance and become financially independent once more," Baldoz explained.

KaGabay Program provides physical restoration that refers to the provision of physical or occupational therapy services to ODWs including assistive devices such as leg/arm prosthesis, crutches, hearing aid, etc.

It also grants skills training for re-employment and entrepreneurship training

for ODWs who want to set up a business.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis stated that KaGabay program's intention is to let the ODWs feel that disability is not a hindrance to a better future.

"KaGabay... Hagdan at Gabay sa Magandang Buhay," she added.

ECC celebrates... from front page

Teresa Urbano; and Administrative Division Chief, Maribel Oliveros.

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