



# EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

## e-REPORTER

Volume No. 10  
Issue No. 6 for 2014

The Official Newsletter of the Employees' Compensation Commission



(Inset) DOLE Assistant Regional Director for Region 4-B Bernardo B. Toriano and ECC OIC-Deputy Executive Director Jonathan T. Villasoto answer questions from media practitioners during the press conference held at Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City in Mindoro Oriental on June 9, 2014. The ECC group headed by OIC-DED Villasoto conducted the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) advocacy seminar on June 10, 2014.

### 258,904 claims amounting to Php 1 billion worth of Employees' Compensation benefits granted in 2013

The Employees' Compensation Commission granted a total amount of Php 1,041,182,633.69 of EC benefits to 258,904 claims for work-connected contingencies in 2013 benefitting both the public and private sector employees. Chair of the ECC Board and Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said.

Baldoz stated that compared to 2012 where benefits were at Php 1,064,100,584.00 for 267,248 claims, the total benefits granted for 2013 is 2.15% lower.

The Government Service Insurance System, the administering agency for the public sector and uniformed personnel, granted 7,165 EC claims amounting to Php 57,199,109.69.

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## President Aquino approves increase in EC benefits

President Benigno S. Aquino recently approved the increase of Employees' Compensation Funeral Benefit from P10,000 to P20,000 for both the employees in the private and public sectors and 10% across-the-board increase in EC pension for all EC permanent partial disability, permanent total disability and survivorship pension in the private sector.

Labor and Employment Secretary and Chair of the ECC Board Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz explained that Executive Order No. 167 approved on 26 May 2014 is based on the actuarial studies conducted by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

"The increase in benefits will not have a significant effect on the SSS-managed and GSIS-managed State Insurance Fund," she said.

"The EC SIF has the capability to finance the increase in funeral benefits for employees in both the private and public sectors from P10,000 to P20,000 even without corresponding increase in the EC contributions from the employers, both private and public," Baldoz clarified.

Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said that ECC is continuously review-

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Green day for the ECC employees. The ECC employees happily pose before getting their hands dirty (inset) and, seriously digging the soil and planting young mangroves during the ECC Green Our DOLE Program in Brgy. Talisay, Calatagan, Batangas.

2014/06/11



## ODW grabs ECC's helping hand, now back to work

Early in the morning of November 14, 2013, Ana Liza De Guzman rode a bus from Guadalupe, Makati City to go to her work in Air Freight 2100 in Paranaque City and seated on the first row from the door of the bus.

Because she woke up early, she was planning to take a nap while on the road. However, she noticed that the speed of the bus was too fast.

De Guzman started feeling restless.

Upon passing Pasay Road along EDSA, she observed that the bus avoided a motor-cycle bike, eventually the bus lost its brakes and it started swerving.

De Guzman saw some people standing on a waiting shed and thought that they might get rammed by the bus.

"Everything happened so fast," De Guzman said.



**ECC KaGabay Program beneficiary Analiza de Guzman shares her life-changing experience to ECC Public Relations Officer IV Leonida Marie P. Galicia during a courtesy visit at the ECC. Analiza was one of the injured passengers when the Elena Liner Bus she was riding on her way to work, lost its brakes and hit an MGP Liner bus in Magallanes loading and unloading bay along EDSA on November 14, 2013.**

man said.

All she can remember is that there were so many bloodstains on the street as she was left hanging on the windshield of the bus.

"From the windshield, I was able to stand up and sit on the sidewalk," De Guzman narrated.

"I cannot hear anything, but the place was frenzied. So many blood all over the place. It was like a movie scene," she added.

She was thankful that she was not injured, she thought. However, when she was in the hospital and was about to stand up, she could no longer bend her knee.

"It was painful, I was screaming for help," De Guzman recounted.

It turned out, her left knee was dislocated and had a tendon tear.

De Guzman was confined at the Makati Medical Center from November 14, 2013 to December 9, 2013.

It was hard for her because she could not attend to the needs of her 3 sons and husband. There were times that she was left

alone in the hospital because her husband was the one taking care of their kids and at the same time going to work.

The Employees' Compensation Commission staff went to her home and visited her.

"I was touched by the ECC staff's visit. I did not know that there is a government agency providing this kind of services," De Guzman related.

De Guzman received P30,000 worth of EC sickness benefit, 16 sessions of physical therapy, and balloon arrangement training from Negoskwela provided for free under the EC KaGabay Program

"The therapy sessions helped me walk once again. If not for the free therapy sessions I received from the ECC, maybe I am not yet walking until now, or worse, I might not be able to walk anymore," De Guzman explained.

De Guzman was able to go back to work again in Air Freight 2100 5 months after the incident.

"When I was in the hospital, my question was: can I still walk and go back to work?" De Guzman recalled.

Of course, her question was now answered in affirmative.

"I am so glad to know that there is a government agency like the ECC. The people from the ECC treat me like their own relative. The ambience in the office was so warm," she added.

The ECC slogan "**Sa ECC higit pa sa benepisyo ang ibinibigay na serbisyo**" really speaks of the agency's commitment to bring the occupationally-disabled workers to the economic mainstream.

### 258,904 claims... from front page

The GSIS approved a total of 943 number of claims for death and pension benefits amounting to Php 9,349,375.49; 3,911 claims for disability benefits amounting to Php 32,374,440.15; 340 claims for sickness benefit in the amount of Php 1,749,042; 1,839 claims for medical services worth Php 11,539,312.84; 115 claims for funeral benefits amounting to Php 2,135,742.68; and 17 claims for rehabilitation services amounting to Php 51,196.53.

Most of the EC benefits for public sector were granted for disability benefits at 56.60% or Php 32,374,440.15 while the least is for rehabilitation services at 0.09% or Php 51,196.53.

On the other hand, the Social Security System, the administering agency for private sector employees, paid 251,739 EC claims equivalent to Php983,983,524.00.

The SSS approved a total of 206,062 claims for death and pension benefits amounting to Php 769,727,290.00; 17,953 claims for disability benefits with the amount of Php 101,784,305.00; 25,572 claims for sickness benefit amounting to Php 88,127,429.00; 1,646 claims for medical services worth Php 20,452,020.00; 362 claims for funeral benefits amounting to Php 3,616,000.00; and 144 claims for rehabilitation services amounting to Php 276,480.00.

For the private sector, the bulk of the claims was for death and pension benefits which amounted to Php 769,727,290.00 or

78.23% and the lowest claims were for rehabilitation services amounting to Php 276,480.00 or 0.03%.

"Although there are many factors affecting the lower number of claims, it may be a result of a better campaign on work hazard prevention by DOLE in 2013," Baldoz said.

Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis stated that the ECC continues to study and consider policies and programs that could benefit the Filipino workers by strengthening the information drive about the Employees' Compensation Program and prevention of accidents and illnesses that may be attributed to work," added Banawis.

### President Aquino... from front page

ing policies to improve its benefits. "The funeral benefits for employees in the private sector was worth P3,000 since 1975, it was increased to P10,000 in 1993, and increased again to P20,000 this year," said Banawis.

For the public sector, the funeral benefit was only P3,000 in 1975. It was increased to P10,000 in 2013 and again increased to P20,000 this year.

"It is high time for ECC to enhance its benefits," Banawis explained. "The average funeral service cost nowadays is P43,000, so we see the need of increasing it to P20,000 to alleviate the financial burden of the families of the deceased workers," added Banawis.

In addition to the increase of funeral benefits, a 10% across-the-board increase in the EC pension for all EC permanent partial disability, permanent total disability and survivorship pension starting in September 2013 for the private sector has also been approved by the President.

The increase to EC pension in the private sector does not require an increase in the EC contributions from the employers.

ECC provides benefits to employees who met accident, sickness or death in the event of work-connected contingencies.

The Employees' Compensation Program benefits are loss of income, medical, carer's allowance, rehabilitation services and death benefits.

The funeral benefit given by ECP is in addition to the funeral benefit given by the SSS provided that the cause of death of the covered employee is work-connected.

### The ECC Reporter

Published by the

**Employees' Compensation Commission**

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