



## ECC revises conditions for compensability of occupational hearing loss



Medical officers from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) listen to Dr. Jacob Matubis (inset), an Eye-Ear-Nose-Throat specialist during the Seminar for Medical Evaluators on Audiometry Testing held at the ECC Multipurpose Hall on October 28, 2014. The aim of the seminar is to refresh the knowledge of the medical evaluators on Occupational Hearing Loss and introduce the latest developments on audiometry testing.

## ECC-QRT visits employees who met accident while going to and coming from work

The Employees' Compensation Commission - Quick Response Team visited recently two employees of Rizal Medical Center who met work-related injuries while going to and coming from work.

In the evening of 12 August 2014, nurse Marileen Castillo was on her way home when the motorcycle she was riding collided with a private vehicle.

Castillo sustained left eye hematoma, right arm fracture and open wounds on the upper lip and left leg causing her to be confined in the hospital for seven days.

On the other hand, on 15 September 2014, while administrative aide Eleno Velasco was on his way to work, his head bumped onto the concrete road while he was alighting from a jeepney which suddenly moved.

Velasco experienced vomiting followed

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The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) recently issued a board resolution updating the conditions for compensability of deafness pursuant to its policy of upgrading the EC benefit structure for workers.

Under ECC Board Resolution No. 14-10-32 dated 08 October 2014, the revised conditions for the compensability of deafness which shall now be referred to as occupational hearing loss is categorized under three conditions namely noise induced hearing loss (NIHL), acoustic trauma, and physical trauma.

Noise-induced hearing loss, characterized as a gradual sensorineural hearing loss that usually affects both ears, permanent/irreversible, and affecting the 3000 to 6000 Hz level but commonly affects and is worst at the 4000 Hz level, results from the workers' exposure to harmful noise levels in higher frequencies in the workplace.

The Board Resolution also identified two other contingencies or eventualities during work activity that can cause direct damage to the eardrum or inner ear.

One is acoustic trauma or the exposure of the worker to sud-

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(Left) Marcelino Lumayon is assisted by a friend in showing his new prosthetic mechanical arm to ECC Deputy Executive Director Jonathan T. Villasoto and Dr. Melba Y. Sacro, and (Right) Ronilo Sorreda wearing his left prosthetic arm describes to ECC Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis and Dr. Raymond Banaga how he lost his arm due to an accident while working as a machine operator during their courtesy visits at the ECC on October 3 and 13, 2014 respectively.



## From sewer to entrepreneur through the ECC KaGabay Program

Elizabeth Magat was a sewer in a garments manufacturing for 8 years when she had to resign from work due to occupational asthma and pneumonia tuberculosis. She had no choice as her health was worsening.

The Employees' Compensation Commission invited her to undergo free entrepreneurial seminars, start-your-own-business-and-enterprise seminar.

Through this seminar, she learned the basic details on how to start a business. She was able to launch her dream business – catering.

"ECC gave me the biggest opportunity in my life. I never knew I will be able to put up my dream business. From being a sewer, I can proudly say that I am now an entrepreneur. All of this is through the help of the ECC," Magat mused.

Magat explained that this business covers her family's daily expenses and gives them a better quality of life compared before when she was still a sewer. Currently, her business clients include banks and government agencies.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said the persons with work-related disabilities like Magat are the inspiration of ECC to continuously enhance its programs and projects for the Filipino workforce.

ECC Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan Program is a special economic assistance program for persons with work-related disability who lost employment by reason of work-related sickness or injury. It provides PWRDs equal access to livelihood opportunities and assists them in setting up their own micro-enterprises or home-based businesses.



ECC Deputy Executive Director Jonathan T. Villasoto welcomes the guests/participants inside the jam-packed Conference Hall B of One Vittoria Hotel in Vigan, Ilocos Sur during the recently concluded ECP Advocacy Seminar held on October 30, 2014. (Inset) DED Villasoto and Dr. Raymond Banaga, ECC Medical Officer answer questions of media practitioners from Region 1 during the press conference held at One Vittoria Hotel on October 29, 2014.

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by loss of consciousness and was confined in the hospital for three days.

Medical Officer III Dr. Diane Kriselle Law of ECC-Quick Response Team briefed the victims on the benefits provided by the EC Program and the process of filing their EC claims.

The ECC-QRT Program provides immediate help to workers who suffer from work-connected contingencies or their families who have to deal with work-accidents or sudden onset of occupational disease or death, in the form of psychosocial counseling and assistance in the filing of EC claim with the GSIS or the SSS.

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den burst of sound such as an explosive blast in the workplace which may result in a conductive or mixed type of hearing loss.

The other is physical trauma which is a result of, but not limited to, motor vehicle

accidents, blunt head trauma, fall, explosions, burns from caustic chemicals, and open flames or welder's slag that enter the ear canal.

"The ECC is continuously striving to enhance and update its policies to better address the need and extend assistance to workers," ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said.

The resolution is a result of a series of consultation meetings conducted with representatives of the Regional Tripartite Industrial Council-4A, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM), Philippine Government Employees' Association (PGEA), Chamber of Mines, Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP), and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC).



ECC-Quick Response Team visits 21 soldiers who were wounded in action. Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) OIC- Deputy Executive Director Atty. Jonathan T. Villasoto; Medical Officer III Dr. Diane Kriselle Law; and Social Welfare Officer II Veronica Curimao explain and answer queries on the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) during the ECC-Quick Response Team (ECC-QRT) visit on 26 September 2014 at the AFP Medical Center Heroes Ward to the 21 soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who were wounded in action (WIA). AFP Master Sergeant Federico Tumabcao, Jr. assists the ECC officers.

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