



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
**EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**  
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# December GOOD NEWS 2014

## GOOD NEWS

## WHY GOOD NEWS

### GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

#### ECC awards EC benefits to public school teacher for her frozen shoulder

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) in the case of Gina E. Azucena vs. GSIS (GM-19336-0912-14 dated Oct. 8, 2014) granted EC benefits to Gina Azucena, elementary school teacher of Parklane Elementary School in General Trias, Cavite for her frozen shoulder.

Initially, the Government Service Insurance System disapproved Azucena's claim for EC benefits on the ground of no causal relationship between her employment as a teacher and her illness, frozen shoulder.

On appeal, the ECC reversed the decision of GSIS. The ECC ruled that although there is no discernible explanation as to the existence of origins of frozen shoulder, it has already been included as compensable under the Presidential Decree No. 626, as amended.

The Commission ruled that school teachers perform demonstrations by writing with chalk on the blackboard, gesturing with arms, holding and bringing notebooks and books to and from classroom and carrying heavy loads of such school materials to and from, both home and school.

The ECC further states: "Some teachers also even lift and carry bulk of examination papers and other educational text materials home with them so that they can correct them before going to sleep. These activities can cause strain to the back, different parts of the body, and upper extremities as well if done in a hurried and uncontrolled manner."

The ECC believes that the continuous and repetitive actions of Azucena in her daily activities for over a period of more than 23 years has taken a toll on her upper limbs. Hence, the Commission found merit in the case and awarded EC benefits to Gina Azucena plus reimbursement of medical expenses incurred in the treatment of her frozen shoulder subject to the limitations prescribed by ECC.

Work-connected sickness or injuries are covered by the Employees' Compensation Program. Benefits provided come in the form of income, medical, rehabilitation services, as well as death benefits.

#### ECC extends a helping hand to Persons with Work-Related Disabilities in Region 11

Persons with work-related disabilities (PWRDs) in Region 11 find economic hopes through the Employees' Compensation Program upon receiving benefits under its KaGabay (Katulong at GabaysaManggagawang may Kapansanan) Program.

Antonio Capillanes, Fernando Saraum, RogelTampus and Aimie Tao

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received from the KaGabay Program free training with starter kit on Meat Processing at Pangkabuhayan Seminar Center in Davao City.

"We are very grateful that ECC gives us this opportunity to have our own micro-business. ECC helped us beyond our expectation," Capillanes, a former repairman of Globe Telecom, remarked during the training.

He further commented that the KaGabay Program is of great help for PWRDs like them who had no chance of reemployment as KaGabay will enable them to restart their lives for the better despite their disabilities.

Prior to the training, the said workers were granted free sessions in physical therapy where all expenses including transportations and meals were shouldered by the Employees Compensation Commission.

"In my entire employment, never have I heard of any Government agencies whose function does not end on giving monetary aid to victims of work-connected contingencies but also rehabilitate the disabled worker both physically and occupationally," Fernando Saraum, a former seaman, stated.

He expressed joy over the thought that, after his accident in the ship, he now has the means to support his family's needs through the home-based micro-business that ECC provided.

"We hope that the ECC could extend its beneficial programs to all persons with work-related disabilities in the region," Rogel Tampus expressed.

"Not all workers in the region know that the Employees' Compensation Commission, an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment, provides meaningful and appropriate compensation to victims of work-related injury, sickness and death," added Tampus.



*ODWs listen intently to trainor Sagulili during their Meat Processing Training*

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*ODWs receive their certificates after completing the two-day meat processing training together with ECC REU Administrative Officer II Franscheline Orvette B. Domingo and trainer Sagulili*

**ECC brings new hope to a box maker**

Roberto Eroisa was a dedicated and a hardworking box maker of Asahi Glass Corporation in Cagayan de Oro City. One day, while cleaning his workplace, two thick ply of glass fell towards him which resulted to his right arm amputation. Because of the accident, Eroisa was not able to go back to work since he will be unable to perform his job due to his condition.

Five years after the accident, Eroisa was advised by the SSS to visit the ECC office in Cagayan de Oro. He found a new hope that maybe there are other benefits he can avail under the EC Program as he was unemployed since the accident happened.

Upon visiting the ECC office, he was assessed to undergo the services provided under the KaGabay Program since he already received a cash benefit amounting to Php 8,610.00 due to loss of work. First, he availed the vocational training in which the ECC shouldered the tuition fee. In just two months, he was able to finish the training program on Computer Hardware Servicing.

A rehabilitation doctor advised Eroisa to undergo physical therapy. Thus, he underwent twenty sessions of free physical therapy under the ECC

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KaGabay Program. On October 21, 2014, he was granted by the ECC an above elbow mechanical hand prosthesis amounting to Php 145,000.00.

Eroisa was very thankful to ECC for bringing him a new hope in life. He not only acquired new skills and received a prosthesis, but he gained confidence through the help of ECC. He is now looking for a job in order to support his family and to show ECC that all the programs he availed are all worth it.

**ECC launches ECP eLearning course**

The Employees' Compensation Commission launched on 10 December 2014 the Employees' Compensation Program eLearning course as it joins in the inauguration of the Department of Labor and Employment Labor Governance Learning Center (LGLC) eLearning System.

The online course can be accessed by enrolling at [elearning.dole.gov.ph](http://elearning.dole.gov.ph). The ECP course discusses the basic information about the ECP. It has a short video about the ECC and its benefits and services.

ECC Executive Director Stella Banawis explained that this online course is a venue for the ECC to inform the workers of the rights and benefits they can receive from the ECC in case they will meet any work-related sickness or injuries.

"We have also come up to this kind of medium to be more proactive as regards to information dissemination. Since people nowadays are internet user, online course is one of the best ways to reach out to the workers," Banawis added.

This effort of institutionalization of the DOLE eLearning program was initiated by Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapiliz-Baldoz as part of her roadmap to a nation with well-equipped employees. All bureaus, services and attached agencies of DOLE developed and submitted modules for the LGLC eLearning system.

The LGLC eLearning System is created for distance learners and workers are encourage to grab the opportunity to learn about the DOLE's services through its newly set online facility.

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