



ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis (Inset) giving her opening remarks during the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) advocacy seminar held at Isabela Zen Hotel, Santiago City, Isabela.

## ECP Advocacy in Region 2 Santiago City, Isabela

The Employees' Compensation Program Advocacy Seminar for CY 2015 will kick-off on January 22, 2015 at the Isabela Zen Hotel, Santiago City, Isabela, to strengthen the information campaign of the Employees' Compensation Commission about the ECP.

The ECC is designed to provide employees and their families with income benefits as well as medical benefits in the event of work-related disease, injury or death. It is important therefore that workers should know about this.

It is in this premise that a one-day free of charged advocacy seminar on the ECP was conceptualized. The advocacy seminar aims that this program be properly communicated to everyone in the workplace. With the effort of the ECC-REU2 and in coordination with the DOLE

regional and field offices, ECC expects 120 or more company representatives to attend the said activity to increase the public's awareness on the Employees' Compensation Programs and services.

The three components of the ECP Program to be discussed in the said seminar will be prevention, compensation and the rehabilitation services.

Also, consultation meetings with the GSIS and SSS medical officers or branch representatives will be a part of the said activity in order to improve the rules of procedures on disposition of the EC claims, the uniformity in processing of EC claims and EC cases, and to erase once and for all the doubts that have been clouding the minds of SSS/GSIS evaluators when resolving EC claims.

## ECC responds to the Guiguinto tragedy victims and their families

The Employees' Compensation Commission through its ECC-Quick Response Team responded to the families of the construction workers who were killed when a warehouse wall collapsed last Monday in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

According to the police report, around 3:30 in the afternoon, the victims were taking a break from work in their barracks when the wall collapsed and pinned down the workers and the other victims to death.

Eleven were killed and four were injured by the unfortunate event. Thirteen were workers of Hoclimco Construction Corporation while the other two were a pregnant woman and a 7 year old kid.

The ECC-QRT immediately proceeded to the residences of the victims to provide assistance to their families. It turned out that their employers failed to register them in SSS. Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis stated that under article 196 (b) of the Presidential Decree 626, as amended, the said victims can still receive benefits from ECP despite the failure of employer to register his employees.

"The requisites to qualify for the ECP benefits are (1) there must be an employer-employee relationship between the victim and the employer; and (2) the incident must be work-related. SSS membership is not the basis to be granted ECP benefits. Under PD 626, as amended, employer shall be liable to SSS

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(L) Facebook status posted by concerned netizen (R) Jerrick General Chv, ECC Staff with Edwin Marcial

## ECC visits Zamboanga traffic aide

In Zamboanga City - The Employees' Compensation Commission - Regional Extension Unit 9, through its Quick Response Program, visited Edwin Marcial, a resident of Sinunuc, Zamboanga City.

Marcial, a traffic aide working for the local government of the City of Zamboanga, suffered a mild stroke last December 14, 2014 while serv-

ing his post in Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City.

Upon learning about the case of Marcial through social media, ECC immediately went to his residence and provided him assistance.

The Quick Response Team Program of the ECC 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 psycho-social counseling and assistance in the filing of EC claim with the GSIS or the SSS.

Marcial underwent Psychosocial First Aid and was advised to file for his Employees Compensation (EC) Claim with the Government Service Insurance System.

for the lump sum equivalent to the benefits to which the employee or his dependents may be entitled to," added Banawis.

## ECC educates Kasambahays in Region 1 about the ECP

San Fernando, La Union - The Employees' Compensation Commission joined the Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office - I in the celebration of the Araw ng mga Kasambahay recently held at the Manna Mall in La Union.

The event marked the second anniversary of Republic Act No. 10361, more popularly known as the Batas Kasambahay which sets forth policies for the protection and welfare of domestic workers. Its main objective was to create greater awareness and compliance with the Batas Kasambahay.

The DOLE in the Ilocos Region led the celebration in partnership with the Social Security System, PhilHealth, PagIBIG and the ECC to promote the welfare and protec-

tion of domestic workers in Region 1.

"By providing information on the Employees' Compensation Program to domestic helpers, the ECC has widened its campaign even further to ensure that all Filipino workers are aware of their rights, benefits and privileges under the ECP," Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said.

The ECP is a government program that grants a comprehensive set of benefits to workers and their dependents in the event of a work-connected sickness, injury or death.

Banawis also stated that the ECC will continue to converge with other DOLE attached agencies in bringing its programs and services closer to the people.

## ECC KaGabay Program ushers in a Pastor's fresh start

Alejandro Padriquel is a pastor formerly employed at Southern Mindanao Mission in General Santos City who met a vehicular accident last 27 July 2013. The accident left him badly injured which required him to undergo a year of physical therapy for his right shoulder and leg.

A glimmer of hope sparked for Pastor Padriquel after he received a visit from the Quick Response Team (QRT) of the Employees' Compensation Commission Regional Extension Unit-12 (ECC-REU 12) who assessed his condition.

The team advised Pastor Padriquel to file for sickness/disability claim under the Employ-

# ECC works out faster processing of EC benefits for the families of PNP-SAF Maguindanao casualties

Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis yesterday said that the Commission is already coordinating with the Government Service Insurance System to facilitate the speedy processing of employee compensation (EC) benefits due to the families of the members of the PNP-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) who died during the recent clash against members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mamasapano, Maguindanao last 25 January 2015. "We are arranging for a speedy processing of the EC benefits of the PNP-SAF personnel with the minimum documentary require-

ments. It is also good that the GSIS is open to it and is gladly helping us," Banawis said. Under the EC Program, the dependents of the Maguindanao clash casualties are entitled to death benefits and funeral benefits of P20,000. Those who are injured are entitled to a loss of income benefit, a cash benefit to compensate for lost of income due to inability to work. They are also entitled to reimburse for the cost of medicine for the illness or injury; payment to providers of medical care; hospital care; surgical expenses; and the costs of rehabilitation appliances. Those who will suffer permanent total disability arising from the

injury they obtained from the clash can also receive carer's allowance.

Banawis also directed the immediate implementation of the ECC's Quick Response Team (ECC-QRT).

"The QRT will provide immediate help to the families in the form of psycho-social counseling and assistance, and in the filing of EC claim with the GSIS," she added. The ECC Chief also said that she ordered the Quick Response Teams in different regional extension units of the Commission to visit the families of the victims in their respective areas, the soonest possible time.

"We know that these benefits cannot bring back what was lost but, somehow, we want to ease the burden of the families of our uniformed personnel who perished in this unfortunate event," Banawis said.

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ECC KaGabay... (From page 2)

ees' Compensation (EC) which was later on approved and released through Social Security System in Gen. Santos City.

Pastor Padriquel also found out, through the QRT, that he can avail of free physical therapy and entrepreneurial training under the ECC 's Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang May Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program.

Not wasting any precious time, he underwent free physical therapy at Doctors Clinic and Hospital in Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

After a year of physical therapy, he then enrolled for a course in Bread and Pastry Training at the Marbel School of Science and Technology (MSST), another assistance he availed of under the

KaGabay Program.

He was also able to reimburse his fare and meal after he completed his training at the MSST.

At present, Pastor Padriquel and his wife are working hard for the success of their small bread and cookies retail business.

The KaGabay Program is a special economic assistance program for people with work-related diseases (PWRD) who lost employment by reason of work-related sickness or injury. It aims to facilitate integration of (PWRD) into the economic mainstream through physical restoration, training for re-employment, or entrepreneurship.

Under the program, workers with approved disability benefits can avail of physical restoration that provides physical or occupational therapy services

including assistive devices such as leg/arm prosthesis, crutches, and hearing aid, among others. It also gives skills training for re-employment so that the PWRD can acquire new skills based on his potentials and residual functional capacity and entrepreneurship training under accredited training centers to help him set up a home-based business.

In 2014, 127 PWRDs availed of physical therapy services while 11 avail benefitted from its occupational therapy services from ECC's partner hospitals around the country. On the other hand, 166 PWRDs underwent various livelihood and skills training courses and business orientation seminars under the livelihood and vocational training component of the KaGabay Program.