



ECC's KaGabay Program helps beneficiaries gain employment, establish own business



Robin Esquerdo-Factory Worker Forty-one year old Robin Esquerdo, a father of four, works in a paper factory back in 2011 when he lost his left limb in a work-related accident. He was feeding paper on a roller machine when he accidentally slipped from the tool where he was standing. His left wrist and hand touched the roller and got stuck inside the machine.

He was rushed to the hospital and underwent a surgery to amputate his left hand.

He was able to get his disability benefits from both the Social Security System (SSS) and Employees' Compensation (EC). He also underwent physical, occupational, and speech therapy under the Employees' Compensation Commission's KaGabay Program.

After his therapies, Esquerdo attended an entrepreneurial training, another benefit he availed under the KaGabay program

With the learnings from the training

and with the help of the Kabuhayan Package worth P5,000 he received from the DOLE-NCR Makati Field Office, he was also able to put up a sari-sari store.

"Malaking tulong ang naibigay ng ECC," Esquerdo said. "Dati daing at peanut butter lang ang itinitinda naming ngayon may sari-sari store na kami," he added.

Apart from selling grocery items, the sari sari store also offers school supplies and toys since it is situated in front of a school. With an earning of P300 per day, the family was able to pay their monthly bills and send two of their sons to school.

When asked about his goals for the future, Esquerdo said, "Gusto ko pa sanang lumago itong tindahan naming at maging grocery na".

Jeffrey Mas-Auto Mechanic

Another KaGabay beneficiary, Jeffrey Mas figured in a motor accident while on his way to a service call. The 32-year old auto me-

chanic has to undergo a two-week physical and occupational therapy for his injured arm at the Philippine General Hospital.

As beneficiary of the KaGabay Program, Mas attended a Soapmaking Class and received a Bigasan Package worth P5,000.

"Kumikita ako ng P600 kada araw. Malakas ang mga tinda kong sabon at bigas," Mas narrates.

However, he had to close his store when his former company gave him a call and offered to hire him again as an on-call mechanic.

"Mas malaki ang kita kasi ang kada gawa ang bayad sa akin," he explained.

He was grateful for the second chance he was given and he is determined not to waste the opportunity.

"Hanggat maaari hindi ako nag-aabsent. Ayokong mawala yung tiwala nila sa akin," he added.

In 2002, the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC), an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment, took a proactive approach in the delivery of rehabilitation services for workers with disabilities, as a result of work-connected sickness or injury. Through the Katulong at Gabay sa mga Manggagawang may Kapansanan, or KaGabay Program, qualified workers with work-connected disabilities are evaluated and referred to various institutions for appropriate rehabilitation services which includes physical restoration, or the provision of physical and occupational therapy, prosthesis, and assistive devices, and livelihood or vocational training to help persons with work-related dis-

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ECP Advocacy Seminar invades the Queen of the South



The Employees' Compensation Commission will conduct its 2nd ECP advocacy this CY 2015, the seminar will be held in Cebu City on February 12, 2015 at the Crown Regency Hotel, Guadalupe.

This is a one-day free of charge advocacy seminar. The invited participants are coming from various companies/locators preparably human resource officers and company representatives from PEZA, Mactan.

In addition, the uniformed personnel namely: PNP, AFP, BJMP, NAVY, AIR FORCE and even civilian personnel are invited to attend this activity.

During the seminar the three components of the EC Program will be thoroughly discussed, namely: Prevention, Compensation and the Rehabilitation services.

A consultation meeting with the SSS and GSIS branch heads or representatives will also be included to resolve issues and concerns in the implementation of the ECP in their respective areas of concerns.

With the effort of the ECC-REU7 and in coordination with the DOLE -7 regional office, ECC expects more than 120 participants to attend the said activity to increase the public awareness on the Employees' Compensation Program.

ECC orders immediate release of EC benefits of PNP-SAF casualties of Mamasapano clash

The Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) has recently ordered the provision of utmost assistance to the families of the fallen members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) and those who sustained injuries in their benefits claims under the Employees' Compensation as a commendation for their bravery as they stood their ground in the Mamasapano battlefields.

"We hope that through the expeditious processing and release of EC benefits for the PNP-SAF casualties, somehow, we are able to help them and their families," Secretary of Labor and Employment and ECC Chairman of the Board Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz yesterday said.

"We are grateful that the GSIS shares our intention in helping the SAF troopers and their families," ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said.

ECC Board Resolution No. 15-02-05, Series of 2015 states that as the Commission extends its highest recognition to the gallantry and dedication to service of PNP-SAF troopers in the Mamasapano inci-

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ECC KaGabay Prog... (from page 1)

abilities (PWRDs) achieve functional independence and become economically productive as they enter the mainstream.

"Since 2008, the physical restoration component of the KaGabay program has benefitted an increasing number of PWRDs with physical and occupational therapy sessions, prosthetics, and other assistive devices," Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis states that 474 PWRDs availed of KaGabay's physical restoration services from 2008

up to 2014 while 86 were provided with prosthesis and assistive devices amounting to P2,483,000.

On the other hand, Director Banawis also reported that in 2014, a total of 166 PWRDs underwent various livelihood and vocational training courses and business orientation seminars.

With the aim of monitoring the beneficiaries' progress and activities, the Work Contingency, Prevention, and Rehabilitation Division of the ECC conducted 100 home visits in 2014.

"In our home visits, we found out that 40 PWRD-beneficiaries were

already engaged in income-generating livelihood undertakings; nine are engaged in freelance job; another nine are planning to expand their small businesses; four are seeking employment; four are continuing physical therapy; two have returned to wage employment; while one is already employed abroad. We are happy to note that the program was able to help the PWRDs start anew," Banawis stated.

"We are continuously finding ways on how we can further help the PWRDs to build their lives again," Baldoz ended.

dent, it also recognizes the need to effect a facilitative processing of the EC benefits for the SAF troopers and /or their qualified beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the resolution directs the GSIS, as the fund manager of the State Insurance Fund for the public sector, to immediately process and release the corresponding EC disability benefits to the wounded SAF troopers and initial EC death benefits to the qualified beneficiaries of the fallen 44 upon receipt of the wounded and the names of the beneficiaries of the casualties from the PNP.

"The resolution shall take effect immediately after the GSIS formulates the necessary guidelines to ensure its implementation," Banawis said.

She further explained that the wounded SAF troopers is entitled to a loss of income benefit—a cash benefit given to worker to compensate for lost of income due to inability to work. Three types of loss of income benefit are temporary total disability (TTD)—for SAF troopers who will be unable to work for a continuous period not exceeding 120 days; permanent total disability (PTD)—for those who are unable to work for more than 240 days; and permanent partial disability (PPD)—for those who lost a body part and consequently, the loss of use of the same.

They are also entitled for medical reimbursement for the cost of medicine incurred for the treatment of injury; payment to providers of medical care; hospital care; and surgical expenses.

Carer's allowance is also provided to those who will suffer permanent partial or permanent total disability, as a supplement benefit.

Funeral benefits amounting to P20,000 will be given to the qualified beneficiaries of those who died during the clash aside from the death benefits, in the form of monthly pension, which will be granted to the qualified beneficiaries of the fallen 44.

ECC Regional Extension Units reach out to the families of PNP-SAF Mamasapano casualties

Responding to the directive of Employees' Compensation Commission Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis, three regional extension units (REU) of the Commission recently conducted a Quick Response Program (QRP) to the families and relatives of the members of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) who died in an encounter with the Moro rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao last 25 January 2015. "More than the monetary benefits, we know that making the families feel that the ECC truly cares for them through these personal visits is what is important. The assistance that we extend to the families in helping them file for their EC benefits claim is a small thing compared to the grief that they have right now," Banawis said.

Quick Response Teams from ECC-REUs in Cordillera Autonomous Region, Region 9, and 11 visited the families of 21 PNP-SAF Mamasapano casualties.

During these visits, families were given psychosocial counseling, a bag of groceries and were assisted in filling out forms for the filing of their benefits claim under the Employee Compensation Program.

As early as 2:00 AM of 31 January 2015, Quick Response Team of ECC-CAR immediately proceeded to Camp Bado Dangwa in La Trinidad, Benguet to join the families in paying tribute to the 7 policemen who died during the clash.

"Despite the very emotional state they are in, the families were thankful of the information that we provided them," Wendy Salada, ECC-REU-CAR staff and QRT member described her dialogue with the families of PO2 Peterson Indongsan Carap, PO2 Noble Sungay Kiangnan, PO1 Angel Chocowen Kodiamat, PO3 Noel Onangey Golocan, PO2 Jerry Dailay Kayob, PO2 Walner

Faustino Danao, and PO1 Gringo Charag Cayang-o.

Immediate families of Police Senior Inspector Ryan Ballesteros Pabalinas, Police Senior Inspector John Garry Erana, Police Inspector Rennie Tayrus, PO3 Victoriano Acain, Jr., Police Inspector Joey Sacristan Gamutan, PO3 Jedz-IN Abubakar Asjali, and PO2 Amman Misuari Es-mula who were residing in Zamboanga were also contacted, visited, and assisted by ECC-REU No. 9 staff. "The families were advised that they shall be informed immediately once the checks for the funeral benefits are available at the branch of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) nearest them," REU No. 9 staff and QRT member Jerrick Go reported.

With apparent pain on her face, Liezel Concepcion, wife of the deceased SPO1 Lover Inocencio, welcomed the ECC-REU No. 11 Quick Response Team as they visited the family during the wake of the SAF trooper. She recounted that her husband already planned to transfer in Davao City next year because he wanted to be with his family. However, such plan would never materialize now that her husband is among the casualties of the encounter.

Franschelline Orvette Domingo, ECC-REU No. 11 staff and QRT member said that the wife appreciated the efforts of the team to reach out to her family.

The Employees' Compensation Commission's Quick Response Team Program is an immediate assistance extended to help 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 counselling and assistance in the filing of EC claim with the GSIS or the SSS.