



Good News

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



EC FUNERAL BENEFITS FOR THE FAMILIES OF PNP-SAF CASUALTIES. Employees' Compensation Commission Regional Extension Unit No. 7 staff Ingrid Yumang (extreme left) and Exequiel Salcedo (extreme right) poses for a photo together with the widows of PNP-SAF personnel who died during the Mamasapano clash Dr. Christine Cempron and Michelle Candano (3rd and 4th from left) as they each receive the checks for the Employees Compensation funeral benefits of their husbands from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) amounting to P20,000. They are joined by Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office No. 7 Director Exequiel Sarcauga and GSIS-7 Area Manager Ma. Fatima Alvarez.

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

est recognition to the gallantry and dedication to service of PNP-SAF troopers in the Mamasapano incident, 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.

ECC passes ISO 9001:2008 certification

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), a government owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Labor and Employment for policy and program coordination, recently passed the ISO 9001:2008 certification after TUV Rheinland audited its processes.

Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis explained that achieving ISO certification is a necessary management tool to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided by the organization.

"ECC commits to continuously improve the quality of its services through regular audits of its management system for better service delivery and customer satisfaction," added Banawis.

The goal of the ECC is not merely to acquire the certification but also to have a world class standard of services and an improved working practices within the organization which will result to staff motivation and a better work environment.

The certification of ECC QMS covers ECC core processes such as development and review of policy on Employees' Compensation Program, disposition of employees' compensation appealed cases, rehabilitation of persons with work-related disabilities and information dissemination.

Having an ISO-certification means that the clients can expect a more efficient and more effective implementation of the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP), Banawis explained.

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 disabilities (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.

ECC orders...
(continued from page i)

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'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 mechanic has to undergo a two-week physical and occupational therapy for his injured arm at the Phillipine 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.

"Hanggang 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