



- \* ECC hosts outreach program for Aeta Community
- \* Ilonggo seafarers receive P214k-worth of EC benefits
- \* Aircon technician gets 107k-worth of EC benefit
- \* ECC passes 2nd ISO 9001: 2015 follow-up audit; maintains ISO certification

- \* ECC, ABS-CBN partner anew in public service
- \* "Birthday na ni Eccoy!!!"
- \* ECC employees participate on VAWC orientation
- \* PSA survey says: 87.3 aware of ECP

# The ECC REPORTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

For more information, call us at 8-896-7837 or follow and message us on Facebook @ecc.official

Vol. I - No. 1 January - February 2020

## ECC HOSTS OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR AETA COMMUNITY

Employees of the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) travelled to Porac, Pampanga to distribute goods to members of the indigenous Aeta community on December 12, 2019.

More than 300 family members of the Aeta community were given packages of goods that contained canned and packed food, Christmas items, packed lunch, some clothes, children's books, and school supplies.

Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis, along with other ECC personnel led the distribution of coloring and reading materials to the children who right away participated in the book coloring activity.

Moreover, some young members performed a unique version of a theme song of a tv station as well as their very own tribal song. The



**ECC GIVES BACK.** In the spirit of Christmas, ECC employees visit an Aeta community and distribute goods and school supplies to more than 400 indigenous members of the community on 12 December 2019 in Porac, Pampanga. The Aetas were displaced from their homes during the April 22, 2019 earthquake that jolted parts of the province.

*Continuation on page 5*



**FROM SAILING TO FARMING.** Ruel C. Espulgar, a former seafarer for 23 years starts a hog-raising business with the help of ECC.

## Ilonggo seafarers receive P214k-worth of EC benefits



A 45-year-old seafarer thought he could no longer provide for his family after an accident at work until he found out about ECC.

For 23 years, Ruel C. Espulgar from Iloilo City worked as a seafarer for a maritime company. But after his accident, he was told he could no longer go back to work. That was the start of his financial and psychological dilemma.

Espulgar recalled the details of the incident. He said that he was on a ladder doing the usual check-up in their station when he slipped off the ladder. "Instead of allowing myself to fall on the floor, I really tried to catch the nearest railing and held on to it.

*Continuation on page 2*

## ► Ilonggo Seafarers...

But the pressure was so tight and hard." Though the other crew helped him, he said the prolonged hanging had caused big damage to his shoulder as he started feeling severe pain. It got worse as they headed to their destination.

When he learned that they were nearing the dock area, he had himself checked in a hospital in Hong Kong where he was diagnosed with severe shoulder injury. But, the worse part he said was yet to come when the doctor revealed to him that he could no longer go back to work. He was repatriated to the Philippines and never called back for work again. His world crumbled along with his dreams of having a better future for his family. He thought he could no longer provide for his family. Until he found out about the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC). ECC assisted him in claiming his Employees' Compensation (EC) Claim at an SSS branch which amounted to a total of P157, 000 for his loss of income. On top of the loss of income benefits that he

received under the EC Program, he also availed of the Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang May Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program thru physical therapy sessions with transportation and meal allowance at the West Visayas State University Medical Center. He then enrolled to ECC's Entrepreneurship Seminar in partnership with the local DTI Negosyo Center-Iloilo City, where he was given additional P20k-worth for his water station business.

"Sa ngayon, umaayos na ang aking kalagayan dahil sa libreng therapy sessions mula sa ECC. Naging pangkabuhayan ko rin ang water station. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng naitulong niyo sa akin," said Espulgar.

A few months ago, Albert D. Cepriano, 28 years old, another seafarer from Iloilo City who also met an accident at work also received more than P17, 000 worth of rehabilitation services with transportation and meal allowance. He likewise, received an additional P20, 000 worth

of business package for his sari-sari store.

Espulgar and Cepriano have a combined benefits amounting to more than P214, 000.

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis emphasized, "More than the financial assistance that we provide to workers who meet work-related contingencies, we believe that reintegrating them in the economic mainstream and making them feel productive again are more important."



## Aircon technician gets 107k-worth of EC benefit



**FROM REPAIRING TO SELLING.** Ronald M. Inao, an electrician, receives electro-mechanical devices for his general electric repair services.

***"I could only remember two things that day: The dazzling light of the motorcycle and the loud bang the moment it hit me,"*** said Ronald M. Inao.

Things are still vivid for the 40-year-old aircon technician from Roxas City who was just waiting for his co-workers after rendering an overtime work when a fast approaching motorcycle accidentally hit him. And the next thing he could remember was seeing himself writhing in pain, and he couldn't feel his left leg.

He looked around and saw people rushing towards him. He almost passed out.

He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Milibili, Roxas City where he was diagnosed with left leg fracture. Doctors advised him to seek further medical attention in Manila where he eventually underwent leg casting.

After the operation, he went back to Roxas City where the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) thru its Regional Extension Unit 6, assisted him in filing for his Employees' Compensation (EC) claims.

Ronald M. Inao was granted a total of P107, 282 of EC benefits due to his work-connected disability. He also availed of ECC's Rehabilitation Services under the Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan (KaGabay)—another EC Program component which offers economic assistance for persons with work-related disability (PWRDs).

Inao underwent intensive physical therapy sessions with meal and transportation allowance which amounted to P98, 170. He admitted to having struggles during the sessions and has had seeds of doubt about recovering. But along his road

to recovery, he started to just let go of all his worries and continued with the sessions.

Eventually, it was not only his leg that recovered but also his emotional state.

After his physical rehabilitation, he also availed the skills training under the ECC KaGabay Program where he acquired new skill on wiring installation at Capiz State University. Thereafter, he received additional P20, 000-worth of assorted power tools from ECC as a start-up capital for his Electro-mechanical and General Services business—another chance at life for him.

"Whenever I think about what happened, I can't help but feel sad about life. But because of people with big hearts like ECC, I now see life in a different light. Thanks to ECC."

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis expressed her support for Inao saying "We do not only provide compensation package to workers who meet work-related sickness or injury, we also give hope and new perspective about life to persons with work-related disability."

# ECC passes 2nd ISO 9001: 2015 follow-up audit; maintains ISO certification



Hay naku Eccoy, bahala ka diyan! Ibang PBB na lang pupuntahan ko, 'don sa PBB sa bahay ni kuya. O-audition na lang ako!



**QMS 9001-2015 AUDIT.** Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis (leftmost in first row) and the ECC Team, together with TUV Rheinland Philippines auditors, gamely show off their free-style pose after passing the QMS re-certification audit at ECC, Makati on December 11, 2019.

As part of its commitment to maintain its QMS, the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) underwent and passed its second surveillance audit on December 11, 2019 conducted by TUV Rheinland Philippines (TUV) in accordance with the requirements of the ISO 9001: 2015 standards in 2016.

The ECC first received its ISO 9001: 2008 Certification for its Quality Management System (QMS) in 2014 which was still valid until 2016. The ECC upgraded to ISO 9001: 2015 in 2016.

In an official report released by TUV, it commended ECC's awards and recognitions in 2019 such as the Continuous Improvement Award from the ASEAN Social Security Association, Most Outstanding Accounting Office Award for CY 2018 from the Association of the Government's Accountants of the Philippines, Stakeholder

Awardee given by the Philippine National Police Finance Service during their 79th Founding Anniversary, and a Plaque of Appreciation from the Philippine Information Agency in forging partnership aimed at communicating ECC's programs and ensure an informed and empowered citizenry.

TUV also noted ECC's very satisfactory performance rating from the Department of Labor and Employment in 2018 for the Office Performance Commitment and Review. It also credited the 87.3% awareness rating on the Employees' Compensation Program based on the 2018 Occupational Wages Survey and the Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

ECC Internal Audit Team Leader and Appeals Division Chief Atty. E. Patrice Jamaine T. Barron said, "The positive

audit result goes to show that ECC takes its commitment seriously to remain compliant with the standards of the established Quality Management System. And, we are doing the best as an organization to maintain the certification as we are readying for the next re-certification audit."

Likewise, ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis shared "We are more driven now that we were able to maintain the ISO certification. This means that a quality management system is effectively implemented and maintained at ECC."

"All the efforts and hard work of ECC employees have paid off," added Banawis.

ECC is gearing up for the next audit on November 11, 2020 to maintain the certification of the established quality management system to ISO 9001: 2015.



**TOGETHER AGAIN.** The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) partners with ABS-CBN in reaching the public through the ABS-CBN Kapamilya Caravan held at the People's Park in Valenzuela City on 8 December 2019.

## ***ECC, ABS-CBN partner anew in public service***

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) and ABS-CBN Corporation thru the ABS-CBN Caravan Team partnered in giving public service at the Valenzuela City People's Park on December 08, 2019.

This is the second time that the ECC joined the ABS-CBN Caravan. In September 2019, ECC, together with other government agencies like Social Security System, Philippine

Health Insurance Corporation, and Land Transportation Office were present during the first leg of the outreach program in Cainta, Rizal.

The ECC team provided information on the Employees' Compensation Program, and distributed information materials and souvenirs to the general public who dropped by at the ECC info booth.

The event was attended by roughly a thousand people.



**ECC RADIO PROGRAM CONTRACT:** #Work-related. Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis (3rd from left in first row on the left picture) and Manila Broadcasting Corporation Vice President for AM Stations Atty. Rudolph Steve E. Jularbal (2nd from left in first row on the left picture) sign the radio program contract at the Executive Director's Meeting Room on 20, January 2020.



### ECP In-House Seminar Schedule for 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 22</li> <li>• February 12</li> <li>• March 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 15</li> <li>• May 20</li> <li>• June 17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 22</li> <li>• August 19</li> <li>• September 16</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 21</li> <li>• November 18</li> </ul>
---	---	--	---



**VAWC SEMINAR.** ECC-Appeals Chief Atty. E. Patrice Jamaine T. Barron, discuss and elaborate the legal definitions of R.A. 9262 also known as the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children, its scope and coverage at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall.



***ECC employees participate on VAWC orientation***

In line with the campaign to end violence against women and children, the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) employees, thru the initiative of the Appeals Chief Atty. E. Patrice Jamaine T. Barron, conducted a seminar on Violence Against Women and Children on December 09, 2019 at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall.

Eighty-six (86) personnel of ECC's six divisions attended the seminar and participated in an interactive discussion.

Atty. Barron discussed and elaborated the legal definitions of R.A. 9262 also known as the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children, its scope and coverage.

She explained the different kinds of abuses that usually happen in relationships such as physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuses which all constitute a violation of R.A. 9262. And to better explain

its forms, she cited some of the most notable news involving high profile personalities who filed cases for violation of R.A. 9262 against abusive husbands and partners.

She encouraged the participants specifically the women to act on the abuses that they have experienced, are experiencing and will experience. "It is very important for us women to know our rights, so that we know how to protect ourselves from all forms of abuses. Be brave, act on it," said Barron who has been doing the lecture on R.A. 9262 even before she joined the ECC.

Likewise, Barron reminded the men participants to show more respect for women especially those who are in relationships. "To all the gentlemen here, value your wives and children

**▶ ECC hosts outreach...**

kids earned applause from the crowd listening to their performances.

One Aeta member, said that he was very happy when he and his family learned that ECC would come. "Nahirapan kami simula nang lumindol. Kaya, masaya kami nang malaman naming darating ang mga taga-ECC."

In early 2019, the Northern part of the Philippines was hardly hit by a series of earthquakes which caused massive destructions. The members of the Aeta community in Porac were among the many members whose ancestral houses were displaced by the quakes. They were relocated and are currently living in makeshift houses set up by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Banawis said that the event was very humbling and experiential, "This is not just a social responsibility, but more of a moral obligation to reach our indigenous people, connect with them, and let them feel that they are not forgotten and abandoned. Truly, this is an amazing experience."

This is the third year in a row that ECC visited an Aeta community.

or your partners. Maintain high respect for them. If you have problems, never ever inflict physical and emotional harm to your partners," she said.

Furthermore, R.A. 8972 also known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act was also highlighted so employees who are solo parents may also be aware of their rights under the law.

Mary Ann Tagalog, one of the employees said "This seminar reminds me of my rights and the limitations in a relationship. This did not only equip me with knowledge and information on my rights but also the ways on how to defend and fight for myself should similar situations happen in the future."

ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis also expressed her thoughts on the seminar. "It is very empowering for us women, and [I think] also for men, to know our rights not just as women but also as human beings who rightfully deserve respect more than anything else," said Banawis.





# PSA Survey says: 87 percent aware of ECP

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), through its 2018 Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) and the 2017/2018 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment (ISLE), reported that 87.3 percent or 28,189 establishments with 20 or more workers are aware of the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP).

In the survey results presented by PSA, where the ECP was a rider module in the OWS and ISLE, the sector on electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply accounted for the highest ECP awareness at 97.5 percent among all sectors. Manufacturing and financial and insurance activities both recorded 90.3 percent in ECP awareness, coming second and third respectively among all sectors.

In addition, PSA survey results showed that much of the awareness on the Employees' Compensation Program is derived from the Social Security System (SSS) website (46.5 percent), SSS lectures and seminars (40.9 percent), and through the company and



**SEMINAR ON ECP.** Information Officer Alicia S. Borres answers queries from the participants of the ECP In-house Seminar during the ECP In-house Seminar at the ECC Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

co-workers (28.3 percent). Medical benefits, disability benefits, and death benefits ranked as the most common types of information people learn about ECP which are often disseminated through echo-seminars in coordination with SSS and initiated by the establishments and through flyers and posters. "The data presented by the Philippine Statistics Authority through OWS and ISLE are crucial

to the decision-making process of ECC on the formulation of policies and programs to improve the ECP and the modes of information dissemination for ECP awareness," Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said.

OWS and ISLE are simultaneous surveys conducted by PSA once in two years to collect information on the basic pay and allowances of time-rated workers on full-time basis and key information on labor and employment, respectively.

Through its awareness campaigns and continuous efforts in information dissemination, ECC hopes to inform more Filipino workers of their benefits and help more people with work-related disabilities (PWRDs) and their families to start over and have decent lives.

"We continue to work towards strengthening our campaigns and advocacy to ensure that all Filipino workers will know their benefits under the Employees' Compensation Program and avail ECC's services in the event of work-related contingency," Banawis said.



**SEMINAR ON ECP.** Information Officer Carlo A. Katigbak, discusses the compensation aspect of the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) during the free ECP In-house Seminar at ECC Multi-purpose hall, Makati City.