



ECC REPORTER



Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary and Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) Chairperson Bienvenido E. Laguesma (right) and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Rizalino L. Acuzar (left) sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment of the Workers' Rehabilitation Center Complex (WRCC) on April 14, 2025, at the DHSUD Boardroom in Diliman, Quezon City.

DOLE-ECC, DHSUD SIGN MOA FOR WORKERS REHAB CENTER

by Ela Bayangos

QUEZON CITY – The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) marked another milestone in its 50th year of dedicated service to Filipino workers with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) for the establishment of the Workers' Rehabilitation Center Complex (WRCC) in Barangay Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal.

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ECC provides livelihood assistance to PWRDs in Central Luzon

by Danica Lacson

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), through its Regional Extension Unit in Central Luzon, recently provided livelihood assistance to four persons with work-related disabilities (PWRDs).

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FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH: Injured workers in Pangasinan rebuild lives with ECC's support

by Dexter Dupagan

Demonstrating resilience and the power of community support, Bernardino Ticman, 44, a dedicated laborer from Sison, Pangasinan, has successfully recovered from a traumatic electrocution incident with the assistance of the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) through its Employees' Compensation (EC) Pro-gram, which provides aid to workers who sustain job-related injuries.

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ECC inilunsad ang unang ECP Barangay Advocacy Seminar na may GAD

by Jayrezze Cañedo

Bilang bahagi ng layunin sa Gender and Development (GAD), matagumpay na inilunsad ng Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) ang unang Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) Barangay Advocacy Seminar

sa Barangay Sto. Niño, Quezon City noong Abril 12, 2025. Lumahok ang 50 opisyal at kawani ng barangay sa seminar na tinalakay ang ECP, Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), at iba pang GAD-related programs.

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Isinagawa ng ECC ang kauna-unahang Barangay-Level ECP Advocacy Seminar sa Brgy. Sto. Niño, Quezon City noong Abril 12, 2025. Nagbigay ng panimulang mensahe si Brgy. Kagawad Julie Estrellado (gitna) sa humigit-kumulang 50 opisyal at kawani ng barangay. Tinalakay sa seminar ang ECP, VAWC, at iba pang programang may kaugnayan sa GAD.



DOLE-ECC, DHSUD SIGN MOA

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Signed by Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary and ECC Chairperson Bienvenido E. Laguesma and DHSUD Secretary Jose Rizalino L. Acuzar on April 14, 2025, the MOA outlines the collaboration between ECC and DHSUD in finalizing the required documents, technical specifications, and bidding requirements for the WRCC project.

In his message, Secretary Laguesma emphasized, "This project reflects our duty to pursue a holistic approach to recovery for our workers. More than just compensation, we are building a place of healing, rehabilitation, and hope." He reaffirmed DOLE's commitment to transforming the vision of WRCC into a fully realized model of responsive government service.

DHSUD Secretary Acuzar echoed this sentiment, stating that "housing is not just shelter—it is dignity and security." He assured that DHSUD, through its Key Shelter Agencies, will deliver the technical expertise and development support necessary to ensure the successful construction of the center and complementary housing components for affected workers under the 4PH Program.

The WRCC, envisioned as a first-of-its-kind facility in the country, stems from Letter of Instruction No. 856 issued in 1979. It directs the ECC to put up a dedicated rehabilitation center for workers who have sustained work-related disabilities. After decades of groundwork and planning, the vision is finally taking shape.

Once completed, the WRCC will offer a comprehensive range of services—from physical and psychological rehabilitation to livelihood and skills training—to help affected workers recover and successfully return to work. It represents a major leap in the Commission's ongoing mission to care for those who have met work-related contingencies.

As part of the agreement, DHSUD will lend its technical know-how through its in-house technical team, helping ECC craft detailed plans and procurement requirements. In order to closely monitor and support the project's progress, the agency will also participate in a Special Technical Working Group.

Through this collaboration, ECC and DHSUD reaffirm their shared dedication to creating a future in which every Filipino worker impacted by work-related emergencies can look forward to opportunity, dignity, and healing.

ECC provides from Page 1

In line with its mission to continuously assist workers and their families in coping with the challenges posed by their work-related disabilities, the ECC offers livelihood support that enables PWRDs to launch their businesses and reintegrate into the economic landscape through entrepreneurial pursuits. The Commission aims to aid and establish a groundwork for them to rebuild their lives, ensuring that their vulnerabilities do not impede their progress or diminish their self-worth.

ECC Central Luzon facilitated the distribution of two complimentary kits and one starter kit valued at Php 60,000 to Jeffrey Cairo, Eliza Pinpin, Emil Gutierrez, and Angeline Pallasigui, who suffered from injuries leading to disabilities due to workplace accidents.

Jeffrey Cairo, a machine operator hailing from Pampanga, received an additional Php 10,000 as complementary kit to further enhance his sari-sari store, which he initiated in October 2023 with the help of the ECC's starter kit worth Php 20,000.

He also received 12 free physical therapy sessions at Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the partner hospital for the ECC in Pampanga, following a work-related injury in May 2023 that resulted in a fracture and joint dislocation.

Eliza Pinpin, a production operator from Pampanga, was given Php 10,000 as a complementary kit to further support her sari-sari store. In 2023, she received Php 20,000 as a starter kit to assist in launching her business following a fingertip amputation of her left thumb due to a work-related accident in May 2022.

Emil Gutierrez, a former boson with cervical spondylosis, began his poultry supply business with the livelihood starter kit worth Php 20,000 from the ECC in January 2025. Furthermore, the Nueva Ecija native participated in training to ensure his readiness to becoming a business owner and the long-term viability of his venture.

Angeline Pallasigui, a food server at a Pampanga hotel who suffered a fracture to her right arm in an accident at work in 2021, received Php 20,000 livelihood starter kit from ECC for her rice store.

Together with livelihood assistance, the four PWRDs received more than Php 110,000 in loss of income benefits. Additionally, each of them received Php 10,000 in cash assistance from the ECC.

This year, the ECC reaffirms its dedication to enhancing its rehabilitation services and expanding its support to more effectively meet the needs of workers experiencing work-related contingencies.



ECC HOLDS ADVOCACY & CONSULTATION IN NUEVA ECIJA



Over 170 committed participants from public and private sectors—including HR officers, barangay reps, union leaders, self-employed SSS members, and uniformed personnel—come together for an engaging two-leg Advocacy Seminar and Consultation held May 7–8, 2025, at Gapan City Hall Auditorium, Gapan City and Harvest Hotel, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Ticman suffered severe injuries due to an unexpected electrical surge while assembling scaffolding at a construction site.

To support his recovery and reintegration in the economic mainstream, Ticman received livelihood assistance from the ECC amounting to Php 20,000.00, enabling him to start a rice retailing business. This assistance has helped him regain stability and continue providing for his family despite life's challenges.

Under the ECP, he previously received sickness benefits in the amount of Php 77,549.76 and Php 10,000.00 cash assistance. He is also scheduled for a free physical therapy session with ECC's partner hospital.

Meanwhile, Carlito Castillo, 49, a seafarer from Pozorrubio, Pangasinan, has also received comprehensive support from the ECC following a work-related accident that led to the amputation of his right thumb while onboard.

Castillo was granted EC sickness benefits amounting to Php 28,000.00. He was also awarded Php 20,000.00 in livelihood assistance to start his pet food business. Currently, he is awaiting the schedule for measuring his

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free prosthesis to be granted by ECC. "For the first quarter of 2025, ECC-REU1 provided five starter kits and one complementary kit to persons with work-related disabilities (PWRDs)," Program Focal Person Dr. Randy Angelo Ponciano said.

ECC Executive Director Atty. Kaima Via Velasquez emphasized, "The stories of Ticman and Castillo highlight the importance of workplace safety measures and the crucial role of social safety nets like the EC Program. The financial aid, ongoing rehabilitation, and counseling provided through the EC Program form part of a holistic approach to ensure the full recovery of PWRDs."

"As they move forward with optimism, their experiences serve as powerful examples of resilience and community solidarity in the face of adversity," Atty. Velasquez added. The EC Program remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting workers nationwide, ensuring that no worker faces financial hardship due to workplace illnesses and injuries.



ECC inilunsad from Page 1

Bilang bahagi ng mga inisyatibo at layunin sa Gender and Development (GAD) ng Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), matagumpay na inilunsad ng Komisyon ang kauna-unahang Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) Barangay Advocacy Seminar para sa mga opisyal at kawani ng Barangay Sto. Niño noong Abril 12, 2025, na ginanap sa Barangay Sto. Niño Hall, Quezon City.

Layunin ng seminar na palakasin ang kamalayan ng mga manggagawa ukol sa mga benepisyo at serbisyong hatid ng ECP, at mapalalim ang pakikipagtulungan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan upang mas maging epektibo ang pagbibigay ng suporta sa mga manggagawang Filipino. Kasama rin sa layunin ng seminar ang pagpapataas ng kamalayan tungkol sa Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) at ang pagpapalakas ng gender-responsive initiatives sa mga barangay sa pamamagitan ng GAD.

Umabot sa 50 barangay officials at staff ang lumahok sa aktibidad—isang mahalagang hakbang bilang kauna-unahang ECP seminar na isinagawa sa antas-barangay at naitampok din ang gender equality at women's empowerment bilang bahagi ng GAD.

Sa pagbubukas ng programa, nagbigay ng panimulang mensahe si Barangay Kagawad Julie Estrellado, at nagpahayag ng pasasalamat sa ECC sa pagsisimula ng programang ito sa kanilang komunidad. Tiniyak din ni Kagawad Estrellado ang kanilang suportang itaguyod ang mga GAD initiatives sa barangay.

Ipinakilala ni Ma. Cecilia E. Maulion, Chief ng ECC Information and Public Assistance Division (IPAD), ang mandato at layunin ng ECC, pati na rin ang overview ng Employees' Compensation Program.

Sinundan ito ng masusing diskusyon ni Information Officer III Jayrezze O. Cañedo ukol sa mga saklaw na sakit o aksidente, mga kinakailangang dokumento sa pag-file at pagproseso ng EC claim, pati na rin ang iba't ibang benepisyo na maaaring matanggap ng mga kuwalipikadong manggagawa.

Bilang karagdagang bahagi ng seminar, tinalakay naman ni Atty. Klarence D. Orjalo, Attorney III mula sa ECC Appeals Division, ang usapin ng Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). Mahalaga umano itong kaalaman para sa mga opisyal ng barangay upang maprotektahan ang kanilang mga nasasakupan mula sa karahasan at agad na makatugon sa mga ganitong kaso. Tinalakay din kung paano ang GAD principles ay maaaring magtaguyod ng isang mas ligtas at makatarungang komunidad.

Ayon kay ECC Executive Director Atty. Kaima Via B. Velasquez, mahalaga ang aktibong partisipasyon ng mga barangay sa pagpapalaganap ng impormasyon hinggil sa ECP at ang pagpapalakas ng gender-sensitive programs. "Nawa'y ituring ninyo ang forum na ito bilang isang kapaki-pakinabang na plataporma para sa mga barangay upang magsama-samang magbahagi ng ideya, tugunan ang mga isyu sa kaligtasan at kalusugan sa trabaho, at magmungkahi ng mga paraan upang mas mapalakas ang programa ng ECC," ani Atty. Velasquez.

Bilang pagtatapos ng programa, nagpahayag ng suporta si Kagawad Ariel Eliquen ng Barangay Sto. Niño sa mga aktibidad ng ECC at iginiit ang tungkulin ng mga barangay na ipabatid sa kanilang mga residente ang mga karapatan at benepisyo ng mga manggagawa sa ilalim ng ECP, pati na rin ang pagpapalaganap ng mga gender-sensitive policies at programang nakatuon sa kaligtasan ng kababaihan at mga bata.

"Patuloy ang ECC sa paglalapit ng ECP sa mamamayan sa pamamagitan ng mas pinaigting na information drives at seminars sa mga barangay at iba pang sektor sa buong bansa," pagtatapos ni Atty. Velasquez.

WHAT'S UP, ECC?



PIA PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ECC AND MARINA

ECC Executive Director Atty. Kaima Via Velasquez took center stage during a Press Conference at the Philippine Information Agency in Quezon City on April 25, 2025, to highlight the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP).

In a compelling message, Atty. Velasquez underscored the government's commitment to safeguarding Filipino workers through timely benefits and support for work-related illness, injury, or death.





ECC taps Iloilo barangay information officers for ECP awareness

by Atty. Stephene Barredo

In its efforts to intensify awareness on the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP), the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) recently partnered with the Barangay Information Officers (BIOs) in Banate, Iloilo. The seminar, held as part of the Philippine Information Agency's (PIA) Hinun-anon activity, aimed to provide valuable information about government programs to barangay information officers, specifically insights on workers' compensation and benefits, particularly for those who suffered from work-connected sickness, injury or death.

The seminar, which brought together local BIOs, served as an educational session about the benefits and services available through the ECC for affected workers and their families. As the closest point of contact to the community, Barangay Information Officers play a critical role in spreading important information to residents, especially those who might need assistance with the ECP. ECC, thru its regional extension unit 6, was on hand as a resource, offering an in-depth discussion on the various benefits available under the ECP. The initiative underscored the importance of ensuring that workers are well-informed about their rights and entitlements in case of work-related injuries, sickness, or death. With the BIOs being integral in their communities, the ECC recognizes that they are well-positioned

to disseminate vital information, making it easier for workers to access the support they need during challenging times.

Atty. Kaima Via Velasquez, Executive Director of the Employees' Compensation Commission, expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership with the PIA, stating, "We are grateful to the PIA for considering us as its main partner agency in this important initiative. Barangay Information Officers are invaluable in our communities, and their role in ensuring that critical information reaches workers is immeasurable. By working together, we can empower our workers with the knowledge they need to access the benefits they are entitled to. This collaboration will help us strengthen our reach and ensure that no worker is left behind in times of need."

The seminar is part of the ongoing efforts by the PIA-Region 6 thru its Hinun-anon program to engage and educate various sectors on relevant government programs, ultimately enhancing the public's understanding of their rights and benefits. Through this collaboration, the ECC hopes to ensure that vital information reaches the workers who need it most, ultimately improving their access to assistance during work-related contingencies.

ECC livelihood starter kit for PWRD in REU 7

Rodel Delicana, a person with a work-related disability (PWRD), picks-up grocery items as part of his EC livelihood starter kit valued at ₱20,000.00. The grant, provided by the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) at the Regional Extension Unit 7 (REU 7) in Toledo City on February 5, 2025, included essential grocery items to help him establish a new livelihood. Delicana, a former stevedore (dock worker) in a shipping agency and marine services, sustained multiple severe injuries in a work-related accident which led to his disability.





ECC brings advocacy to NIR



Almost 200 participants take part in ECC's two-leg ECP Advocacy Seminar and Consultation in Dauin, Negros Oriental and San Juan, Siquijor, both within Negros Island Region on June 3 and 5, 2025.

Waves to wins: A seafarer's transition from injury to livelihood

by Ela Bayangos

Dasmariñas, Cavite – 57-year-old Nonilon C. Mantillas, a seafarer and former chief cook, has found a fresh start with the help of the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), following a work-related accident that nearly derailed his livelihood.

Nonilon, a dedicated family man with two children and a resident of Brgy. San Jose, Dasmariñas, Cavite, was employed onboard a ship where he managed the food provisions for the crew.

On September 1, 2022, while preparing food in the ship's kitchen, Nonilon accidentally slipped and sustained a fracture of his right leg. The injury significantly affected his mobility and left him unable to carry heavy items exceeding fifty percent (50%) of his body weight, ultimately leaving him unable to return to his former duties.

Upon learning about the Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) from his fellow workers, Nonilon filed for EC benefits through the Social Security System (SSS). In addition to his SSS sickness benefits he received, he was granted EC temporary total disability (TTD) / EC sickness and EC disability benefits, through which he has been receiving a monthly disability pension amounting to ₱18,000 from both SSS and ECC for the past two years.

As part of ECC's extended support for persons with work-related disabilities (PWRDs), Mantillas was awarded ₱10,000 in cash assistance. He also underwent 12 sessions of free physical therapy and medical consultation at UERM Medical Center, with an additional ₱500 daily allowance for transportation and meals throughout the duration of his therapy. This treatment played a vital role in his full recovery.

Following the free orientation on "How to Start a Business and Simple Bookkeeping," that he attended on October 25, 2023 at ECC Office, Nonilon was awarded a livelihood starter kit worth ₱20,000 where he launched a small garments business from his home through the aid of ECC's Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program.

During the follow-up monitoring conducted by ECC officers, Nonilon was happy to share that he expanded his offerings to include a sari-sari store alongside his garments business and through his perseverance and careful savings from his business profits, he was able to build a physical store.