



DOLE Good News

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Former SPES beneficiaries now DOLE partners in reaching out more students, youth

Indigent yet diligent, the country's underprivileged youth has been the silent majority recognized by the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) through the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES).

Conceptualized as a 'bridging employment' program to enhance the employability of young student-workers, SPES has brought education and employment closer to poor, but deserving, student-beneficiaries in the country.

Since its inception in 1992 under Republic Act No. 7323 and later amended by R. A. 9547, SPES has provided short-term employment to thousands of financially handicapped, but deserving, students during the summer and Christmas vacations, through incentives granted to employers, allowing them to pay 60 per cent of their salaries or wages. The other 40 per cent is paid through education vouchers issued by the DOLE.

For two pioneer SPES babies, the program definitely made an impact in their lives. They recalled how the SPES 'bridged' education and employment which molded them into fulfilled achievers in their respective fields. They were once beneficiaries but are now partners of the DOLE in empowering more underprivileged youth.

A local partner's perspective

First to be called a 'SPES baby', Cagayan de Oro City Vice Mayor Ceasar Ian Acenas was among one of 90 pioneer SPES beneficiaries in the region. He was a 17-year old com-



SPES IN RETROSPECT. Cagayan de Oro City Vice Mayor and pioneer 'SPES Baby' Ceasar Ian Acenas (right) shares his gainful experience as a student-worker under the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES).

puter engineering student at the Mindanao University of Science and Technology when he enrolled under the SPES.

Ceasar was assigned at the city hall's Finance Department and Local Government Unit Office where he received a daily salary of P128.00.

"The money helped me pay my school tuition and matriculation fees, books, and other expenses. More importantly, I was able to save the allowances given by my parents," Ceasar said.

Beyond the financial assistance, SPES provided Ceasar with meaningful work experience that taught him the values of independence, perseverance, and industry which molded his character and attitude towards love of and dedication for work.

Now as vice mayor and an ardent SPES supporter, Caesar strongly recommends the program to students, saying: "I wish every youth can avail of this program because this is a big help to every parent."

As a SPES partner, Vice Mayor Acenas relishes his role in providing employment opportunities to poor, yet deserving, students who have no means but have the ability to pursue college education.

"*Bisan kinsa nga Mayor ang milabay sa dak bayan*" ("Over the year, even with different mayors in power"), we are always grateful to the DOLE. I am one with the DOLE for SPES, and I hope this very essential

SPES under the Aquino III Administration (in thousands)

REGION	2010		2011		2012	
	BENEFICIARIES	BUDGET	BENEFICIARIES	BUDGET	TARGET	ALLOTTED
MCR	6,480	22,837	12,110	33,253	12,500	63,051
CAR	3,248	7,121	4,310	7,122	5,000	9,167
1	2,804	8,000	4,419	8,105	5,000	16,288
2	6,825	8,087	8,553	8,887	10,000	16,942
3	7,349	15,780	10,085	15,108	10,000	28,411
4A	4,167	14,755	11,785	15,238	10,000	28,735
4B	2,574	5,000	4,281	8,551	6,000	13,583
5	3,114	8,021	3,811	8,457	5,000	12,587
6	8,252	14,408	11,450	13,778	11,800	17,818
7	9,222	7,487	8,261	8,348	8,070	23,370
8	4,234	5,244	6,888	4,858	8,070	12,118
9	5,822	10,533	11,108	8,813	13,000	18,880
10	2,784	8,673	5,755	8,888	11,000	20,488
11	6,274	10,283	6,882	10,358	7,500	20,818
12	5,822	12,813	6,085	12,784	7,500	22,848
CARAGA	4,825	7,137	5,287	7,145	8,000	14,858
TOTAL	84,786	162,779	119,045	172,502	140,000	340,282

The Aquino III Administration provided an additional P168.1M, which doubled the year-round SPES budget in 2012 to 340.2M

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DOLE aims 80 barangays to become child labor-free zone in 2012

The battle for the elimination and prevention of child labor is going down to the grassroots level, with Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz saying that she had all DOLE's regional offices to transform barangays into child labor free zones.

"We are bolstering the implementation of the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP) by transforming pre-identified barangays with high-incidence of child labor into "child labor-free barangays. We will aim for 80 barangays this year," she said.

Towards this end, Baldoz directed all DOLE's 16 regional directors to reactivate the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPCs) in their areas of jurisdiction to assist them in the task. Each region will identify five barangays with high incidence of child labor or children at risk of becoming child laborers in their areas and transform these into zero child labor-free barangays.

Baldoz said that the program is part of the government's commitment to fight child labor through the intensification of actions aimed at achieving a child labor-free Philippines.

"The work involves close coordination with local government chief executives—from the governors to the

mayors to the barangay captains—to achieve the goal," she said.

She said DOLE regional offices will conceive and implement partnership programs with their LGUs, particularly the barangay captains and councilors, in promoting and safeguarding the rights of children and in advancing their welfare.

Under the program, barangay councils will be the partner-in-arms of the Department in ensuring that child labor is prevented within their communities. The DOLE regional offices will train members of the barangay councils in monitoring and reporting the incidence of child labor and in disseminating correct and relevant information in the hazard of child labor.

"Advancing the welfare of children is not just the concern of the DOLE. It is a concern of every one in the community, thus a holistic approach is needed to lick the problem," she said.

The BCPCs has an important role to play in the effort. They must also assist the DOLE regional offices in establishing a community-based mechanism for detecting, monitoring, and reporting the most hazardous forms of child labor in their area to proper authorities. They should also help in identifying relevant assistance and support to the program beneficiaries, such as the child laborers and their parents.

The DOLE, on the other hand, will provide complementary services, such as orientation on Republic Act 9231, or the law on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and R. A. 9208, or the Anti-Human Trafficking Law.

Through the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC), the DOLE will intensify its advocacy to push for the promulgation of local ordinances to prevent and eliminate child labor. In 2011 the continuous monitoring visits of the DOLE regional offices to validate or negate incidence of child laborers in the various parts of the country, as well as the regular campaigns on R.A. 9231, R.A 9208 and other child labor protection laws, paved the way for local government units to pass ordinances to protect and promote the welfare of children.

Baldoz recalled that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) last year issued Memorandum Circular 2011-133 directing all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, barangay captains and DILG regional directors to formulate local legislation to address child labor.

This directive also orders local executives to integrate child labor initiatives in their respective local department plans and programs, a move that will give more teeth to the implementation of the PPACL at the local level.

Editor

NICON F. FAMERONAG
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Associate Editors

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Graphic Artist

GREGORIO I. GALMAN

Photographer

JOMAR S. LAGMAY

Circulation Manager

GIRLIE MARLYN E. ARCE

Contributing Writers

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Benguet, Marinduque institutionalize their PESOs, DOLE reports

The Department of Labor and Employment offices in Regions 4-B (MIMAROPA) and the Cordillera Administrative Region have reported to DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz that the Provinces of Marinduque and Benguet have institutionalized their respective Public Employment Service Offices, the very first regions to have institutionalized PESOs in 2012.

"I commend these DOLE regional offices for being the first regions this year to have institutionalized PESOs," said Baldoz, recalling that each of the 16 DOLE regional offices have set as target the institutionalization of five PESOs in 2012 in their respective regions.

"This institutionalized PESOs will surely boost our employment facilitation efforts this year," Baldoz added.

DOLE-CAR Regional Director John Jalbuena reported to the Secretary that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Benguet has approved Appropriation Ordinance No. 11-08 institutionalizing the Benguet Provincial PESO with a budget of P1,829,722.

On the other hand, DOLE-MIMAROPA Regional Director Zeny Angara said in a report that the Provincial Government of Marinduque has enacted the local PESO Act through Resolution No. 95-2011, making the provincial PESO a permanent office with budget and personnel complement.

Moreover, Director Angara said the Divine Word College of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro had also adopted the PESO Act to establish the first school-based PESO in MIMAROPA.

"The DWCC-based PESO, dubbed School Placement Bureau, will serve as an employment facilitation arm of the DOLE to help not only DWCC students but also graduates from other schools in searching for 'skills-fit' job opportunities," Angara said. "It will bring our employment facilitation services closer to students in the region," she added.

The institutionalization of the provincial PESOs of Benguet and Marinduque brings to 89 the total number of LGUs



FIRST IN THE REGION. Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan (right) shares smiles with DOLE Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Director Henry John Jalbuena as he receives the plaque of appreciation for making Benguet the 1st institutionalized provincial PESO in the region.

that have made regular and permanent their PESOs.

Baldoz has also lauded DOLE Regional Offices Nos. 3 and 11 for establishing PESOs in schools, after she received a report from Regional Director Raymundo Agravante that DOLE Regional Office 3 has forged a memorandum of agreement with Wesleyan University-Philippines for the creation of two school-based PESOs in Nueva Ecija, while in Region 11, Regional Director Joffrey Suyao reported the establishment of two school-based PESOs at the Tecarro College Foundation Inc., and Endonela Institute of Technology Foundation Inc., respectively.

Baldoz said the establishment of PESOs in the schools brings to 1,780 the PESO networks in state universities and colleges, non-government organizations, and community based organizations across all regions.

Baldoz explained that PESOs, because they are linked to the DOLE, ensure prompt, timely, and efficient delivery of employment facilitation and placement services at local levels.

"The institutionalization and the establishment of school-based PESOs are important steps towards strengthening our collaboration between LGUs and the academe in

providing jobseekers and graduates access to our employment facilitation programs and services. The presence of the PESO is the most cost-effective way to "job-fit" opportunities," Baldoz explained.

Apart from employment facilitation services, PESOs also serve as medium for the delivery of the DOLE's career guidance and counseling services and relevant and correct labor market information. They also serve as areas of employment facilitation, livelihood and manpower development, training, and skills registry.

"This year, the DOLE envisions to strengthen further the country's PESO network as a frontline institution," Baldoz explained.

Republic Act 8759, or the PESO Act, mandated the creation and establishment of PESOs all over the country. Administered by the DOLE through the Bureau of Local Employment, PESOs are linked to DOLE regional offices for coordination and technical supervision.

Under the PESO law employers are encouraged to submit to the PESO on a regular basis a list of job vacancies in their localities in order to facilitate the exchange of labor market information services to job seekers.

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Department of Labor and Employment
Labor Communications Office
6th Flr. DOLE Bldg. Muralla St.
Intramuros, Manila

or e-mail us at
dole_lco@yahoo.com
laborcommunications@gmail.com

Baldoz to DOLE officials: Mainstream competitiveness to help improve business and investment climate



MAINSTREAMING COMPETITIVENESS. Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz (right, standing) discusses the issue of mainstreaming competitiveness, green productivity, and gender sensitivity during the workshop on employment at the 2012 DOLE-wide Corporate Planning Exercises at Hotel Stolenberg, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz identified competitiveness, gender sensitivity, and green productivity as the three dimensions that should infuse the DOLE's action plan for 2012 and for the rest of the term of the Aquino III administration.

At the annual DOLE-wide corporate planning exercises held in Clarkfield, Pampanga, on the theme, "Mainstreaming Competitiveness and Promoting Decent Work and Productivity", the labor and employment chief said that while 2011 was a banner year for the DOLE, 2012 remains challenging in terms of ensuring that DOLE programs and projects are geared towards helping create a positive business environment.

"This is what the President and all agencies and other branches of government are trying to achieve. At the DOLE, we have an important contribution to make to create an environment conducive to business and investment through our policies and programs that we ought to implement," she said in her keynote message to all DOLE officials.

Issuing a reminder that there is no reason to start 2012 on a wrong footing, she said the DOLE has already laid down the foundation in the Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016 pursuant to the President's 16-point Social Contract with the Filipino people.

"*Kung hindi natin makalimutan 'yan, na ang taong-bayan ang ating boss, tama ang ating magiging kilos. Hindi ko na kayo kailangan pang kulitin,*" she said in Filipino.

On the issue of competitiveness, Baldoz said:

"We have to be very honest. Let us review and assess if the things we are doing contribute to improving our global competitiveness ranking," she said, adding that the challenge is to make respondents to global competitiveness surveys acquire in-depth knowledge or awareness on how the DOLE is responding to the competitiveness issue of labor market efficiency where the country ranks low in such factors as hiring and firing, employment rigidity, flexibility of wage determination, redundancy cost, reliance on professional management, pay and productivity, brain drain, and female participation in the workforce.

During the conference, she outlined two general directions for the DOLE for 2012:

- Review DOLE programs and exercise boldness in choosing which ones should be stopped and which ones are to be continued using the three dimensions. "This will give us that sense of critical importance or significance and urgency because we can no longer close our eyes to the changing environment," Baldoz said.

- Make a clear determination, through joint effort, on how to maximize DOLE resources, how to streamline procedures, and how to beef up the capabilities of DOLE personnel. "This can only be done if we do integration, complementation, and convergence not only in program implementation but very so in our resources," she said.

Specifically, Baldoz said DOLE regional directors should assert themselves as heads of the regional coor-

minating committees in the effort of program complementation and convergence to attain high impact results and outcome.

"You can start, for example, with the reactivation of the task forces on illegal recruitment and human trafficking and involve the local chief executives, the police, the Department of Justice, and private sector organizations," she urged.

"From the regions, I see no other leaders who can orchestrate complementation and convergence of these programs other than the regional directors using the umbrella of the regional coordinating committees," she added.

Baldoz also directed all DOLE officials to move towards ISO certified systems and procedures following the direction of the Anti-Red Tape Act, citing the accomplishment of DOLE Region 12 which had just recently hurdled the ISO certification system. She expressed the hope that the POEA will succeed in restoring its ISO certification which she said the agency accomplished when she was its administrator.

On overseas employment, Baldoz reminded DOLE officials of the policy of ensuring maximum protection for OFWs, noting that in terms of priorities, the most vulnerable workers in the overseas sector are none other than women household service workers, particularly those in the Middle East.

"The DOLE, as a whole department, can now start phasing itself out of the low-end of the HSW market—meaning we have now to look towards a market

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Adult workers, young workers, graduating college students, and all jobseekers for that matter will find it easy to find their dream jobs if they first learn about the labor market.

“Learning about the labor market is actually the first step before a job seeker should go out to look for a job,” says Baldoz, as she encouraged jobseekers, particularly the first-timers, to make use and benefit from the rich trove of labor market information (LMI) available.

Saying preparation is essential in a job search, the labor and employment chief explained that LMI--defined as any information concerning the size and composition of the labor market and the presentation of facts arising out of the functioning of this market--consists of raw or analyzed statistical or qualitative information which jobseekers can use as basis for making important career or employment decisions.

It consists of primary information, such as the number of the labor force, employed, unemployed, and underemployed; and other pertinent quantitative or qualitative data on job openings and job prospects, human resource development trends, industry profiles and industry situationers, in-demand careers and occupations, labor supply-demand profiles, and skills and supply shortages/surpluses.

“For example, if I were the jobseeker, it would be important for me to know which jobs are “tight”--where applicants exceed the vacancies; and

Learn about the labor market, access DOLE’s LMI, Baldoz urges student, jobseekers as graduation near



which are “loose”--where vacancies exceed the applicants. I would also need to learn about the hiring requirements of industries, prospects for occupational growth, training opportunities, wages and benefits,” said Baldoz.

Baldoz said all these types of information are readily available at various government offices, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education, National Statistical Coordination Board, and the National Statistics Office.

On the part of the DOLE, its bureaus, namely the Bureau of Local Employment and Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, and attached agencies, namely the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the National Wages and Productivity Commission collect, process, and analyze specific LMIs for dissemination to the public.

“A rich collection of LMI are also available in the newspapers, journals,

employment service websites, even foreign embassies, and various government and non-government publications, such as the DOLE’s Career Guides, Guiding Youth Careers, and Minute Guide for Young Jobseekers,” Baldoz said, adding the government’s official job search and job matching portal, Phil-job.net, is a valuable source of LMI.

“Our LMI dissemination activities is aimed to enhance the access of jobseekers to employment opportunities in the labor market,” she said, adding:

“They also seek to guide jobseekers and students towards winning courses and productive career choices in consonance with the overarching goal of President Benigno S. Aquino III, in his 22-point labor and employment agenda, to address the labor-mismatch problem by promoting better coordination between employers, academia, and government through strengthening both public and private sector labor market information and exchange institutions.”

where domestic work will not pay no less than US\$400. Let’s already work towards zero deployment of HSW paid US\$200 and below,” she said.

“We can no longer close our eyes to those who deploy HSWs with fake TESDA certifications and with bogus PDOS certificates from the OWWA, or those who attend the PDOS but do not learn both the culture and language of the host country; and to employers and recruiters who use ‘re-pro’,” she said.

“It cannot be that only the POEA, or the OWWA, or the POLO should commit to eliminate these. Otherwise, we will only waste our time and resources.

What we need is to integrate, complement, and converge the efforts of all agencies towards eliminating these malpractices in overseas employment starting with the POLO accreditation and contract verification system,” Baldoz added.

Baldoz emphasized that sharing resources--budget and personnel--is a must to make the DOLE plans work.

“This time, I task the Financial Management Service to see to it that when we require something from the regions, from the agencies, and even provincial offices, they should be equipped with the right people and with the right budget,” Baldoz said.

“I also direct the Human Resource Development Service to already conceptualize a kind of immersion program which will involve assigning personnel especially from the Central Office to the regions on a minimum of six months to expose them to field operations,” Baldoz said, adding this will boost employee morale and contribute to professional development.

She expressed the hope that the 2012 DOLE-wide Corporate Planning Exercises will inject every DOLE official a strategic and focused mindset that would result to multi-year commitment in terms of high-impact programs and targets, as well as the practical application of what the DOLE wants to do.

To attain 'safety first' in construction, DOLE trains 46 safety officers in Region 11

DOLE Region 11 Regional Director Joffrey Suyao has reported to Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz that the regional office is now implementing the latter's directive of strengthening partnership of the DOLE regional offices and the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) in realizing 'safety first' in the construction industry through skills and knowledge building.

"With workers' protection and safety as a paramount priority, we have conducted an extensive basic occupational safety and health (BOSH) training for 46 safety officers in our effort to educate and capacitate more workers, trainers, and inspectors towards 'accident-free' workplaces in Region 11," said Director Suyao in his report.

This, after Secretary Baldoz emphasized that a joint effort of the OSHC and the DOLE offices across the regions is deemed significant to achieve the goal of empowering more industry key players to ensure a holistic implementation of safety and health practices and help curb the recurrence of work-related hazards, illnesses, and accidents in all industries in the country.

The 46 safety practitioners were oriented on general labor and occupa-

tional safety and health standards to ensure safer and better workplace conditions in the construction industry in the region.

The participants in the week-long training came from various companies in the Davao region, which included Kalayaan Engineering Co. Inc.; A.G.A Construction Company; Dwightsteel Building System Inc.; New Golden City Builders and Development Corporation; and AGA Construction.

Representatives from the City Engineer's Office, Office of the Building Official, and City Government of Davao also joined the BOSH training, which focused on such topics as OSH standards and regulations in the construction industry; safety and health requirements set forth in Department Order No. 13; mandatory implementation of a Construction Safety and Health Program (CSHP) in every construction project; presence of safety and health personnel/committee; implementation of a safety plan; and other safety rules.

The participants also benefited from the discussions of resource speakers and safety practitioners from the OSHNET XI, notably Engineer Ruel Acasio of Davao Light and

Power Co; Jason Patawaran of Fast Cargo Logistics Corporation; Kishler Pascual of San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp; and Claro Landeta of PLDT Davao. These resource persons shared their best practices in handling hazards towards effective safety in workplaces.

"We are committed to equip both trainers and workers with adequate awareness and basic knowledge on occupational safety and health practices towards a holistic and extensive implementation of prescribed corrective safety measures to ensure workers' protection in all workplaces in Davao," said Director Suyao in describing the training.

"We see the need to start this year with workers' safety as a priority thrust to protect more Dabawenyo workers," he added.

Baldoz said the DOLE, through the OSHC and its network of OSHNET partners will deliver to the grassroots its advocacy services on workers' safety and health not only to increase productivity, but also to safeguard workers rights and safety through training and education.

Providing adequate and workforce-focused occupational safety and health is a key strategy under the Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016, which is anchored on the President's pronouncement on labor and employment to enhance social protection programs for workers.



TOWARDS AN 'ACCIDENT-FREE' CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. DOLE XI Safety and Health Regional staff join the batch of 46 safety officers in the conduct of the Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) training to capacitate more partners in ensuring construction safety in Davao City.



WHEELS ON THE MOVE. DOLE CARAGA Director Ofelia Domingo (4th from left) leads the planning meeting with the DOLE's partner agencies and with the Butuan local government represented by City Mayor Ferdinand Amante to kick-off the DOLE On Wheels Livelihood Program, a convergent project to reach out to 1,000 Butuanon residents of 21 of the city's poorest barangays.

DOLE CARAGA teams up with Butuan City LGU to reach 21 poorest barangays

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz has announced that the DOLE-Caraga Regional Office has converged its programs and services with national government agencies and the local government of Butuan City headed by Mayor Ferdinand Amante, Jr. to reach out to 1,000 Butuanon residents of 21 of the city's poorest barangays.

"I am happy that the DOLE-CARAGA's "RCC on Wheels", a convergent advocacy and service caravan, is moving smoothly as planned," Baldoz said after receiving the report of DOLE-CARAGA Regional Director Ofelia Domingo saying the project will take off on 13 March and will initially help

1,000 Butuanons living off the banks of the Butuan River.

"These Butuanons are most affected by the sudden weather disturbances visiting the city," Domingo reported.

The convergent project, dubbed "DOLE-RCC On Wheels Livelihood Program: A Ground Zero Project", is personally supported by Mayor Amante, Jr. and 86 of his barangay captains, following a planning meeting organized by the DOLE Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) and attended by its members who included Dir. Edwin Gatinao of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Annette Lovete of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Roberto

Aying of the National Labor Relations Commission, Marietta Bellotindos of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Ronnie Azura of the Butuan City Public Employment Service Office, Earl Dela Victoria of the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board, Director Domingo, and Mayor Amante himself.

Director Domingo said that on 13 March, the RCC offices and their partners will organize a caravan to bring to the target beneficiaries their programs and services, including skills demonstration by the TESDA; productivity programs of the RTWPB; anti-illegal recruitment and human trafficking seminars of POEA; livelihood programs of the DOLE and the OWWA.

"For the convergent project, the TESDA, through Dir. Gatinao, has pledged scholarships for 100 beneficiaries, while the DOLE will provide support to the water lily livelihood project of Butuan City that will harness the skills of the beneficiaries and the raw material resources available in the river bank. A mini-job fair will also be conducted during the caravan," Director Domingo reported.

She also informed Secretary Baldoz that Mayor Amante has announced the establishment of a livelihood and training center to sustain the partnership between the DOLE-RCC and the city government.

"A benchmarking activity at the Agusan Del Sur Training and One Stop Resource Center will be undertaken by the DOLE-RCC and its partners on 14 March, immediately after the caravan," Domingo finally said.

Former SPES ...

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program continues for our children," Caesar said.

Leading private sector support

"SPES gave me the opportunity to continue my studies and fulfill my dream of a better life."

These were the words of Gaudencio Laganit III as he recalled how the SPES helped him in juggling school and work due to his father's early death.

Despite being a 16-year old freshman at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and a sole bread winner in his family at that time, Gau never gave up in his schooling, believing that education is the only key to save his family.

Through the SPES, Gau had worked at the Risk Assessment Department of the Manila City Hall for two successive summers, by which his work experience as a SPES baby taught him positivity and persistence in life and determination despite his father's demise.

"The people I worked with during those two summer breaks greatly influenced how I positively perceived life. With so much pessimism and mourning engulfing me, their words of wisdom and encouragement helped me to balance things off. I wouldn't be who I am now, without them guiding me," Gau shared.



LAGANIT

Finishing his race, Gau graduated in PLM in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in Science in Business Management. Benefiting from his early work experiences through SPES, Gau no longer has to fret as a working student, but enjoys being an educator and businessman.

He manages the Full Circle Creative Concepts Corporation in Makati City. As Vice-President of the Makati Business Club, he sits in the Education Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and still has time to be the department chairman of the College

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Community-Based Employment Program expected to generate 1.2 million to 1.8 million jobs this year--Baldoz

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz bared that between 1.2 million and 1.8 million new jobs are estimated to be generated by the government's Community-Based Employment Program this year, as she dismissed criticisms saying the government does not have a coherent job generation program.

"The government is spending between P263 billion to P832 in public infrastructure projects this year. More than half of the projects will be implemented by the national government while others are submitted for public private partnership (PPP) and Official Development Assistance (ODA)," said Baldoz who hastened to add that the high-end amount of P832 billion is a rough estimate and that the list of projects has to be completed yet and will form part of the still-to-be published Public Investment Plan 2011-2016.

"As to the P263 billion, the amount of P234.535 billion has already been allocated in the 2012 General Appropriations Act, while the balance of P28.579 billion is from ODA. Altogether, this public expenditure is estimated to generate 1.8 million jobs, on the assumption that the cost per one job generated is P140,000 based on the 2011 CBEP projection.

The labor and employment chief explained that under the CBEP, various government agencies, such as the Departments of Agrarian Reform, Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Governments, Public Works and Highways, Social Welfare and Development, Transportation and Communications, Justice, National Defense, Science and Technology, Trade and Industry, Labor and Employment, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, PAPP, PRRC, NCIP have identified and are implementing job-generating programs and projects within their sphere of their mandates to be funded under the General Appropriations Act.

"Most of the identified programs and projects are locally funded, while some are foreign assisted," Baldoz said, adding that there are 49 locally-funded infrastructure programs/projects, 18 foreign-assisted in-

frastructure projects, and nine (9) non-infra programs/projects that have been lined up to be funded by a combination of local and foreign funds. The rest, she said, are funded from regular operations budgets.

Baldoz further explained that most of the government agencies have job-generating programs and projects already enrolled to the CBEP, with each agency using their own formula in generating a job.

The DOLE, tasked to monitor the jobs created under the CBEP, reported that the 29 national government agencies enrolled in the CBEP generated a total of 1.157 million jobs in 2011.

She cited the DOLE, which has enrolled the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), and the Emergency Employment Program to the CBEP and which are funded under the regular appropriation of the department.

"The job categories generated by the CBEP are mostly in the professional category, such as engineers, agriculturists, field researchers; skilled category, such as heavy equipment operators, carpenters, masons, steel men, welders; and unskilled category, such as laborers. There are also administrative and clerical jobs, administrative and finance support positions, and field and office aid workers," Baldoz said.

Baldoz further cited the DPWH and the DOTC which she said have enrolled to the CBEP big-ticket infrastructure projects, such as the construction, maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of infrastructure facilities; major flood control projects; water supply/retarding basins/rain collectors and sewerage; disaster-related rehabilitation projects; construction, rehabilitation and improvement of transportation and communications infrastructure projects, including the acquisition of equipment; MRT 3 operation and maintenance (EDSA LRT III); and the Laguindingan Airport Development Project.

For the DENR, she cited its forest development project under the National Greening Program; development and rehabilitation of the Hinulugang Taktak National Park in Antipolo, Rizal; development and rehabilitation of the Mt. Apo National

Park; and the development, updating, and implementation of the operational plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Management Strategy.

For the DA and DAR, Baldoz cited the repair/rehabilitation and construction of farm to market roads in designated key production areas; construction of small scale irrigation projects (SSIPs); construction of bridges; construction of corn post-harvest trading centers; SOCSK-SARGEN Area Development Program; CASECNAN Social Measures; Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project III (ARISP III); Second Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP II); and the Italian Assistance to the Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Program (IARCDSP).

Baldoz said that with the government's plan to spend heavily this year on public infrastructure projects and the like, the realization of the job generation capacity of the national government is firmly on track.



Former SPES . . .

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of Management and Entrepreneurship of the PLM.

With the SPES's year round implementation and the active involvement of the private sector in the SPES program, Gau vows to promote SPES as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of companies.

"I felt the need to give-back all the breaks I am enjoying now to students who, like me, once dreamed of providing a better future for their family." Gau said.

This year, the SPES budget of P340.282 million is expected to benefit over 140,000 poor but deserving students all over the country to surpass the 107,306 SPES babies in 2011.

SPES responds to the President's 22-Point Labor and Employment Agenda which calls for the DOLE to work with relevant government agencies in enhancing social protection programs as well as the Emergency Community Employment Program (ECEP) to create jobs immediately so people can still have income to spend for their basic needs.