



Department of Labor and Employment
BUREAU OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT



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PHILIPPINE TOURISM JOB FAIRS KICK OFF IN THREE PILOT REGIONS

22 September 2022 — In line with ongoing efforts to bolster the country's economic recovery, the partnership between the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) kicked off the first of a series of tourism job fairs to bridge displaced

workers, fresh graduates, and jobseekers to gainful wage employment.

With the theme *Trabaho Turismo Asenso!*, the activity was held simultaneously last 22-24 September 2022 in Manila (NCR), Cebu (Region VII) and Davao (Region XI). A total of 8,310 local job vacancies from

157 participating employers in the tourism and allied sectors were offered to jobseekers. The three-day event attracted 9,026 jobseekers and recorded 395 applicants hired-on-the-spot.

This series of job fairs was conceptualized by the DOLE and DOT through a Memorandum of Understanding signed last 30 August 2022. The focus of the initiative is to provide an avenue for the creation of employment opportunities in the tourism sector in light of the re-opening of business establishments.

In her keynote message during the opening ceremony held last 22 September 2022 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City, DOLE Undersecretary Carmela I. Torres emphasized the Department's significant role in assisting workers to find jobs and responding to the needs of growing industries — particularly key employment generating sectors like the tourism sector. She also reiterated that DOLE shall take an active involvement in addressing job-skills mismatch, low labor capital productivity, and underutilization of the labor force, now that the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is an attached agency of the Department.

The series of job fairs will continue to cover the rest of the regions in the coming months until May 2023 to mark the 121st National Labor Day and 50th Founding anniversary of the Department of Tourism.



TRABAHO TURISMO ASENSO!
PHILIPPINE TOURISM JOB FAIR
22-23 SEPTEMBER 2022

TRABAHO NEGOSYO KABUHAYAN

BLE WELCOMES NEW OIC-DIRECTOR IN HANDOVER CEREMONY

28 July 2022 — A handover ceremony was held at the DOLE where Assistant Secretary and former BLE Director Dominique Rubia-Tutay turned over the documents of the agency to her successor, OIC Director Patrick P. Patriwirawan, Jr.

Prior to joining the Bureau, OIC Patriwirawan was Chief Labor and Employment Officer and Acting Deputy Executive Director at the Institute for Labor Studies, the policy research and advocacy arm of the Department of Labor and Employment. For more than ten years,



he has done research work in the areas of labor relations and public sector unionism, worker displacement and unemployment protection, labor market analysis in selected sectors, and overseas employment.

During his first general assembly with the Bureau on 28 July 2022, OIC Patriwirawan

shared his vision and expectations as the new head of office. He aspires to shepherd its digital transformation by maximizing technological innovation, embracing a digital culture, and transforming the workplace with an agile workforce. Under his leadership, he hopes to develop a

Continued on next page.

DOLE MANIFESTS SUPPORT FOR INTENSIFIED EFFORTS AGAINST POGO-LINKED CRIMES

15 September 2022 — The labor department voiced support for quick action on crimes dogging the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs) industry during the committee hearing conducted by Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs on 15 September 2022. The senate convened to probe the alarming rise in incidents of kidnapping, abduction, disappearances, and human trafficking linked to the sector.

Among the invited government agencies was the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as represented by Ms. Rosalinda P. Pineda, Chief of the Employment Services and Policy Regulations Division of the Bureau of Local Employment. Pineda reiterated the Department's full commitment to fulfilling its mandate to protect the welfare and safety of Filipino and foreign national workers in the country. She manifested the full support of the DOLE for a more intensified campaign against POGO-related illegal activities.

Towards this endeavor, Pineda underscored that the Department is always ready to assist law enforcement agencies by providing information on foreign nationals working in the country who have been issued Alien Employment Permits (AEPs), including those employed in POGOs. The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency regularly receives a list of the same.

The Department, however, acknowledged

inherent challenges in verifying the true identity of those reported foreign nationals considering the limited information in the AEP database. For instance, Chinese foreign nationals usually have namesakes or possess similar names. Given these limitations, verification may not be conclusive as to the true identity of persons being investigated.

Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, the Chairperson of the Committee, asked if the DOLE could share its database with the Philippine National Police. Pineda responded in the affirmative, recommending the force's inclusion in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Employment of Foreign Nationals. Through this, similar concerns could be properly raised and addressed by other member agencies such as the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Professional Regulation Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Justice.

Senator Dela Rosa directed the PNP to coordinate with DOLE on the matter. He emphasized the compelling need to implement a whole-of-government approach to resolve these cases sooner. As previously stated by Senator JV Ejercito, the national government risks losing the confidence of investors, as well as the rest of business sectors should these security concerns remain unresolved.

BLE WELCOMES NEW OIC-DIRECTOR...

Continued from preceding page.

Bureau equipped with the necessary tools and capacities to work efficiently in a volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous, and digital world, propelled by flexibility and willingness to adapt to how work gets done, with a progressive workplace thinking.

He urged BLE employees to maintain a client-focused mindset in developing, reviewing, implementing, and monitoring policies, regulations, programs, and services; encouraging them to uphold honor, integrity, personal commitment, and accountability in their work, aligning themselves with the thrust and direction of the Bureau, the DOLE, and the entire bureaucracy.

OIC Patriwirawan holds a Master of Industrial Relations degree from the School of Labor and Industrial Relations of UP Diliman and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Behavioral Science cum laude from UP Manila. He has been registered in the roster of the Career Executive Service Eligibles since 2019.

To qualify for an award, a nominee must attain an overall rating of not lower than sixty percent (60%) based on the following criteria: Innovation (40%), which is the PESO's provision of employment to retrenched/unemployed and displaced individuals and affected OFWs; Resilience (30%), which is the use of alternative modes of referral to maintain the same number of qualified jobseekers referred for placement in the past year; and Humanitarian Services (30%), which refers to the PESO's capability to provide at least three (3) services outside of their mandated line of work, such as COVID-19 contact tracing or providing assistance to victims of natural calamities.

Now more than ever, efforts to hold communities together have become so important. The DOLE's recognition of the PESOs' vision to not only improve, but also provide livelihoods to their localities serve as a motivational boost and reward for hard work and dedication to their people. With this, inclusive growth and recovery is guaranteed in the near future. Winners will be proclaimed in the forthcoming National PESO Congress to be held in Pampanga on 25-27 October 2022.

72 ENTRIES VIE FOR RECOGNITION IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

12 August 2022 — The Bureau of Local Employment reports that it received a total of 72 entries for the Secretary's Bayanihan Service Awards II. A continuation of last year's commendation of Public Employment Service and Job Placement Offices (PESOs, JPOs) for exemplary efforts and initiatives in their localities amid the pandemic, the BSA II is held in lieu of the Search for Best PESO Awards which was deferred in 2021 due to the pandemic.

On 26 July 2022, the Bureau conducted a hybrid meeting with the DOLE Regional Offices and the PESO Managers

Association of the Philippines (PESOMAP) for the opening of entries to the awards. The entries come from the 16 Regional Offices, classified under nine categories: 1st Class Province, 2nd Class Province, 3rd-5th Class Province, 1st-2nd Class Municipality, 3rd-4th Class Municipality, 5th-6th Class Municipality, Independent Component or Component City, Highly Urbanized City, and JPO or Non-Government Organization. A separate category recognizes SBP Hall of Fame Awardees that have won the award in their category three consecutive times.

BLE APPRECIATES ADB FOR 7 YEARS OF SUPPORT TO JOBSTART PHILIPPINES



28 September 2022 — The Bureau of Local Employment, through the JobStart Philippines (JSP) Unit, along with other delegates from JobStart areas in NCR, attended the 55th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the ADB Philippines Country Office in Mandaluyong City last 28 September 2022. As part of the event, Malaysia's ADB Alternate Governor and Deputy Finance Minister requested a project visit on the

Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program, which included JobStart Philippines, for the seven-person Malaysian delegation.

The meeting was opened by ADB Philippines Country Director Kelly Bird who was followed by the Bureau's OIC-Director Patrick P. Patriwirawan, Jr., who expressed his gratitude to the ADB for their seven-year technical assistance to JobStart Philippines, which closed last

March 2022. After this, Ms. Kyra Querijero, JSP focal person, conducted a briefing on the program and opened the floor for the testimonials of ten JobStart graduates (three from Mandaluyong City and seven from Pasig City).

Part of the delegation was Mr. Ronnie Alarcio, the Corporate Director for Human Resources of Astoria Hotels and Resorts, one of JobStart Philippines' partner employers. The 10 beneficiaries took the opportunity to show him their appreciation and share their JobStart journey which marked beginning of their career building. All of them were unemployed prior to their participation in the program and, reaping the benefits of their hard work during the life skills and technical trainings and internships, are now employed in stable jobs by the company. They now enjoy decent and secure livelihoods after being afforded by the program the opportunity to transition from being previously not in education, employment, or training (NEET) to having much better lives.

The technical assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank helped the JobStart Philippines Program build a foundation to maintain its provision of competitive ambitions, diverse opportunities, and meaningful lives to many young at-risk Filipinos.

SPES DELIVERS ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

12 August 2022 — With the aim of helping students who are financially struggling to support their education but want to pursue schooling, the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) was able to provide assistance to 57,632 deserving beneficiaries during its first semester implementation for the current year. This translates to 64.21% accomplishment rate vis-à-vis the 2022 total target of 89,750 beneficiaries.

A huge percentage of SPES beneficiaries were students at 93.06% (53,632) of which 39.16% (21,002) are males and 60.84% (32,630) are females. The remaining 6.94% (4,000) are out-of-school youth (OSY) composed of males at 48.68% (1,947) and females at 51.33% (2,053).

Perhaps the most outstanding accomplishment of the Program during the first semester was its provision of support to members of marginalized and

vulnerable communities. These communities are typically found in remote locations where obtaining basic services is rather challenging. Extending assistance to these individuals required extraordinary effort from program implementers which they did not fail to deliver.

A total of 29 beneficiaries with disabilities were assisted across the country with 15 from Region 7, six (6) from Region 2, three (3) each from Regions 4A and MIMAROPA, and two (2) from Region 5. This illustrates the Program's inclusivity; granting everyone access to its offerings regardless of their circumstances. Additionally, the program assisted 42 dependents of sugar plantation workers in Region 11 and 1,510 dependents of indigenous peoples: 965 from Region 11, 380 from CAR, 115 from Region 2, 35 from MIMAROPA, nine (9) from RO 3, and six (6) from Region 7.

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SPES is a youth employment-bridging program that provides short-term employment to poor but deserving students, out-of-school youth, and dependents of displaced or would-be displaced workers to augment the family's income and help ensure that beneficiaries are able to pursue their education.