

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Local Employment
July 2022

BLE joins NHCP's Screening of GAD Advocacy Film "Pusit"

The DOLE-Bureau of Local Employment, through its Gender and Development Team, participated in the screening of the gender advocacy film "Pusit" as spearheaded by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. The film screening ran from 11 to 15 July 2022 via the Eduksine Platform.

"Pusit", as directed by Arlyn dela Cruz, depicts a true-to-life story of six individuals living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – a salon owner, overseas worker, model, call center agent, teenage boy, son from a rich family, and a breadwinner raised by a single mother. Notwithstanding HIV as the common thread which weaves the entire film, the movie also tackled societal problems such as hate, persecution, and condemnation by the society.

Pusit, according to some who availed of the film screening, is an on eye-opener to the public as it contains relevant and helpful information on HIV and the prejudice that patients deal as they battle from the disease.

"The film presents intertwined narratives grounded on the experience of being HIVpositive, hence the antecedent-cum-etymology of the title. Commendable are the efforts of the creator/writer of the film, given the scarcity of local films discussing the plight of those the characters represent. The multiplicity of characters has been an earnest attempt to portray experiences despite the limited medium of film, in addition to the already romcom saturated popular cinema (to which I hope the film can permeate). Anyhow, the film may continue to trailblaze among the excellents like Kalel, 15.

Until the time of writing, the struggle exists for outpour of financials to films such as "Pusit," given the commercial-driven state of popular cinema. The film is an opportunity to exhibit the potentials of infotainment often sidelined to peripheries in favor of cliches, cheap laughs, and, worst, compounding the stereotypes that alternative, independent, and/or representative voices seek to address."

Said movie screening was made possible through the Gender and Development Program of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

END/GAD Team