

Fewer Filipinos lose jobs, says DOLE

by MAYEN JAYMALIN
Philstar.com

BELIEVE it or not, but now fewer workers nationwide are losing their jobs.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) recently announced that the employment situation has improved slightly and the number of displacements resulting from the financial crisis already slowed down.

Teresa Peralta, DOLE's Bureau of Employment and Labor Statistics (BLES) director, said that

while there are still additional reports of workers getting re-trenched, the daily average has started to go down.

"The average daily displacement due to the economic crisis is now down by 40 from 437 during the first week of March to only 397 as of Mar. 16," Peralta disclosed.

Peralta noted that from Oct. 1, 2008 to Mar.16, 2009, DOLE has recorded a total of 109,529 workers affected by the ongoing global financial crisis. She said of the total figure, only 11,574 were permanently displaced while 38,806

were laid off temporarily. Meanwhile, 59,149 were placed under flexible work arrangements.

"The daily average number of workers permanent displacement as a result of the crisis is now pegged at 90," Peralta said in her report submitted to Labor Secretary Marianito Roque.

According to Peralta, the crisis has affected a total of 543 commercial establishments nationwide since October.

Calabarzon Region, which encompasses the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and

Rizal, recorded the highest number of affected workers at 76,342, followed by CARAGA with 7,788 and Central Luzon with 6,644.

Peralta said two others regions were severely affected by the global financial crisis. These are Central Visayas with a total of 5,630 affected workers and National Capital Region with 4,825.

Majority of displaced workers were workers from manufacturing and electronics companies, which used to employ nearly half of the total affected workers nationwide. ■

[TheWeekthatWas]

700,000 jobs await fresh grads

ACCORDING to Labor Secretary Marianito Roque, at least 700,000 jobs mostly in the call center, retail and tourism industry are available to this year's fresh graduates.

Roque suggested that job seekers be more open to various job options.

"If they aren't choosy, there are many opportunities out there. At the very least this year, they should try any job for the first six months. Then, by the time October comes, they can look for more specialized work that may already be more available to them," Roque said.

The new jobs, unemployment rate is expected to increase to as high as one million but this is due to seasonal factors, Roque said. "That's a normal cycle because every year, between April to August, the unemployment rate increases because new graduates have not been absorbed into the labor pool."



Franchising business to provide more employment opportunities

AN expanded franchising business in the Philippines can provide at least 100,000 employment opportunities this year.

Franchising is believed to be an effective tool to impede global recession especially for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who have minimum capital. It is also beneficial for those retired and laid off workers who have enough savings and massive network with business friends.

Speaking to ABS-CBN, Samie Lim, chairman of the Philippine Franchise Association or PFA, cites three specific businesses that Filipinos can concentrate on at this time which do not require huge cash investment, and these are in the food, fashion and service sectors like health and beauty salons.



Gov't remains optimistic on tourism despite crisis

EVEN with the global economic crisis, the Philippines is eyeing more opportunities in drawing more tourists into the country with the opening of Malaysian-based Genting Group's luxury brand hotel in the second semester.

Maxims Hotel will open its P2.362-billion all-suites luxury hotel at the Newport City Cyber Tourism Economic Zone along Villamor Airbase in Pasay City on the second half of 2009 that would likely generate almost 2,000 jobs.

"Parallel to the DoT's (Department of Tourism) commitment to be the 'butlers' giving unparalleled service to travellers while in the country, we commend Maxims Hotel's worthy investment in the Philippines and their pledge to guarantee an exquisite travel experience," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano said.

Maxims Hotel is just one of the two new luxury hotels across Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 that is nearing completion. The Marriott Hotel is also located in the 25-hectare Newport City being developed by real estate mogul Andrew Tan. ■

Student activists hold protest at EDSA shrine

Rallies behind unemployed graduates

by THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net

STUDENT activists held a program briefly last March 23 at the EDSA Shrine monument even as church security guards tried to stop them.

Members of Anakbayan staged their program at the very spot where President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took oath during the second People Power revolt in 2001.

"It is a depressing scene to see our youth marching with their togas yearly having no assurances at all that they will land on jobs that suits their earned degrees after graduation," said Roy Velez, National Capital Region spokesman for Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), as he explained the purpose of their protest.

The student activist also wore black togas and even tossed their graduation toga hats in the air, while also pro-



Student activists hold protest at EDSA shrine.

testing the impending tuition free increase in the schools and universities in the upcoming school year.

The group along with Bayan, which has also been calling on Arroyo to step down, claimed that about 11 million Filipinos are jobless.

They also said that unemploy-

ment rate is at its record-high of 11.2 percent.

With the closure of manufacturing and exporting companies in the electronics, garments, and textile industry, the group claimed the highest percentage of unemployment was recorded in Metro Manila at 14 percent; and in Southern Luzon at 10.9 percent.

Velez said Arroyo has failed to generate jobs in the country and was merely "pushing our young workforces abroad" who are also affected by the global economic crunch.

"For the longest time, the government has been clearly doing nothing significant to secure enough locally generated jobs for our newly graduates," he added. ■

Malacañang tells Panlilio to go slow...

PAGE A5 ◀

She said voting for a candidate should not only be because he or she is perceived to be a reform-

ist. "It's easy to talk, that's rhetoric, but what about performance? We should look at performance, because we are already talking about the highest leader of the land," Fajardo said.

United Opposition (UNO) president and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, on the other hand, welcomed the reported move to push for the presidency of Panlilio.

"This is a sign that the people now consider the work of local chief executives as compatible with the work of presidency," Binay said.

Panlilio hinted last week that he might run in next year's presidential elections if it is the will of God and if there is a strong clamor for him to do so.

Panlilio also said that in the event that he runs for president, he is eyeing Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca as his running mate.

Sen. Manuel Villar also welcomed the reported plans of Panlilio to run for president, saying he expects the list of presidential contenders to expand to 20 as the May 2010 election nears.

Left-leaning groups announced their support for a Panlilio-Padaca team in the May 2010 presidential elections, but reiterated this would only be so if both governors agree to the progressive bloc's program of government. ■

MANILA-CLARK
New Year Special
\$679 +tax
(1/08-03/31)

ASIANA AIRLINES | KOREAN AIR | nwa
Philippine Airlines | EVA AIR | CATHAY PACIFIC

Continental Travel
213.386.3100

801 S. Vermont Ave., #201
(Bkfst + Vermont Ave.),
Los Angeles, CA 90005
cont89@gmail.com

EARN EXTRA MONEY

Make an average of \$2,000 Part Time as an independent marketing representative for a mortgage and debt solutions company.

No experience necessary!

Do you know people with mortgage problems?

Do you have friends struggling to pay \$10,000, \$25,000 or \$50,000 in credit card debts?

You can help them while you help yourself!
No extra work necessary!
Simply refer them to us -

You will receive \$250 to \$500 per successful transaction. Call us for details!

Create Your Own Schedule.
Keep Your Current Job!

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT,
PLEASE CALL (818) 588-2545
and leave your name, number and email address.

This is not a multilevel marketing program. No start up fees.

FILING FOR PERM? RELY ON US.

Under the PERM (Program Electronic Review Management) System, the process for labor certification will be significantly shortened to a matter of months instead of the 3-4 year span from the regular labor certification process.

Count on Michael F. Eng and Bert S. Nishimura, reputable lawyers with an impressive history in immigration law to handle your PERM case with competence, credibility and confidence.

ENG & NISHIMURA

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST

COMBINED 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH IMMIGRATION CASES
BOTH ARE GRADUATES OF ACCLAIMED
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW & HAVE HANDLED THOUSANDS OF
IMMIGRATION CASES INCLUDING:

- Green Cards for Spouses, Children, Parents, Brothers & Sisters
- Green Cards & Work Permits for Registered Nurses, Accountants, Medical Doctors, Teachers, Medical Technologists, Ministers, Religious Workers, Travel Agents, Computer Analysts, Architects, Bilingual Secretaries, Staff Writers and Journalists, Cooks, Engineers, Managers, Investors, Child and Elder care workers, and many, many more!
- Expedited Green Cards for Children about to turn 21 years old.
- U.S. Citizenship for all green card holders, and children in the U.S. but who have one parent who is a citizen.

CALL NOW FOR FREE CONSULTATION CONCERNING PERM,
NEW LAW EXPEDITED PROCESSING FOR NURSES
AND EMPLOYMENT BASED GREENCARDS

Experienced & Friendly Staff of 6 Lawyers & 10 Staff • Competitive and Reasonable Prices • Experienced in Taking the Hard Cases • Offices Close to All Freeways • Major Credit Cards Accepted.

213.622.2255

1055 W. SEVENTH STREET, #1780
(Where Seventh Street Crosses Over the 110 Harbor Freeway)