

# DOLE: Mindanao job market shows bright spots

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported on April 9 in its website that the job market in Mindanao showed bright spots.

"Export-oriented agri-based business and other industries in the region indicated that they will hire more workers within the second quarter of 2009, boosting employment situation in other parts of the country," DOLE said.

Citing a report from DOLE Coordinator for Mindanao Joji Aragon, Labor and Employment Secretary Mariano Roque said that

Job opportunities in agriculture, plantations, mining, and business process outsourcing (BPO) sectors in Regions 9 (Western Mindanao), 10 (Northern Mindanao), 11 (Southern Mindanao), 12 (Central Mindanao), and 13 (Caraga) will be made available for semi-skilled, skilled, and professional workers beginning this month, according to Labor Secretary Mariano Roque, citing a report from DOLR coordinator for Mindanao Joji Aragon.

Roque said "the bright spots in Mindanao's job market boosted employment situation in other parts of the country where industries affected by the global crisis started rehiring and also recalling affected workers back to regular work. (Inquirer.net)

# 'Moral Force Movement not political'

by EVELYN MACAIRAN  
Philstar.com

FORMER ambassador to Rome Henrietta "Tita" de Villa denied reports that the newly formed Moral Force Movement would be used to jumpstart the presidential candidacy of Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

De Villa, who was chosen as one of the movement's eight council members, assured the public that the new civic organization's intention was to fight corruption and to search for transformational leaders.

"This would not evolve into a political group. Chief Justice Puno himself has said that he has no plans of entering politics or becoming a presidential candidate," De Villa said in an interview over the Church-run Radio Veritas.

She emphasized that they came to the understanding that they would not join any partisan

group, and even Pampanga Gov. Eduardo Panlilio, who is reportedly contemplating on running for president, would not be allowed to join their organization.

Monsignor Gerardo Santos, Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) president, supported De Villa and added that the group's intention was to shed light on the morality aspect in politics. "This is what we call formation of our social concern among all Filipinos."

De Villa said joining the movement made her realize that there are also several organizations working to put an end to the culture of corruption in the country.

She said the group's first measurable project, the upcoming 2010 elections, is one of the reasons why she agreed to join.

Aside from being a member of the movement, De Villa is also chair of the Parish Pastoral

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# Gordon advises voters to validate poll registration

by AUREA CALICA  
Philstar.com

SEN. Richard Gordon advised Filipino voters last April 8 to go to the Commission on Elections office in their respective areas and have their biometrics taken to validate their registrations before the 2010 polls.

Gordon, author of the amended Automated Election System Law, made the call as he noted that

preventing ghost and multiple voters from taking part in next year's elections would address the problem of retail cheating. And to ensure that both wholesale and retail cheating will no longer mar the next elections, Gordon filed Senate Bill No. 3065 seeking to amend RA 8189, the law which rendered ineffective and inoperative the certified voters list used in the 1997 barangay elections.

RA 8189 authorized the poll

body to conduct a general registration of voters, adopt a system of continuing registration and to computerize the registration process. In 2003, the Comelec started to capture the biometric information of all voters under the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). However, a Comelec report showed that only 24 million, or half of the 48 million registered voters, were covered by biometric listing. Comelec of-

ficials claimed lack of sufficient funding, among others, prevented the poll body from fully utilizing the machines.

The senator's proposed amendment seeks to require the submission by new registrants or voters previously registered under the old application procedure of their biometric information. The bill also seeks to mandate the Comelec to use the computer-gener-

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