

GMA urges completion...

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sion (PAGC) and its implementing agencies the information to "ensure public awareness and participation through information campaigns and advocacy programs."

"The PPS shall monitor the priority programs and projects of the President, such as but not limited to the projects committed (by the President) through the State of the Nation Addresses (SONA), major infrastructure

projects, health and education programs, regardless of fund source," the EO said.

The PPS Steering Committee would be composed of representatives from the business sector, civil society sector, academe, youth sector, mass media, religious sector, local government sector, international development organizations, and a national government advocacy group. ■

DOLE offering 80,000 jobs in Labor Day fair

by MAYEN JAYMALIN
Philstar.com

At least 80,000 jobs are up for grabs in the biggest job fair to be mounted on Labor Day on May 1, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported.

Labor Undersecretary Reydeluz Conferido said over the weekend that more than 80,000 jobs would be offered to new graduates and other job seekers who will participate in the Labor Day job fair.

"About 300 employers have committed to provide employment opportunities for new graduates, displaced workers and other job seekers," Conferido said in an interview.

But with the prevailing economic crisis that has adversely affected over 100,000 workers nationwide, the number of employment opportunities is still expected to be fewer than the job seekers.

Conferido said as much as 120,000 job seekers are expected

to vie for the 80,000 available jobs.

"So far, more than 10,000 job seekers, mostly new graduates, have already pre-registered for the available positions," he said.

He expressed confidence that many of the job applicants will find regular employment through the job fair.

DOLE, supported by various trade unions and private companies, launched a month-long job fair last March, which will culminate on May 1 at the SMX Convention Hall in Pasay City.

In the past jobs fair, only few workers were hired on the spot because of difficulty in completing the assessment of the qualifications of applicants and securing all the necessary requirements.

He added that DOLE would also undertake skills training during the month-long event to address the problem of mismatch of the needed and the

available skills.

He noted that employment opportunities would be the government's main gift for workers on Labor Day.

"The coming Labor Day is all about jobs and wage adjustment will not be the focus because of the economic crisis," Conferido said.

Seeking 'divine intervention'
Meanwhile, leaders of various labor groups met with Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and other Metro Manila bishops on April 28 to come up with plans to help mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis on Filipino workers.

Federation of Free Workers (FFW) information officer Julius Arganoza said the labor groups have sought the support of Rosales and other bishops from Metro Manila to intervene on their cause.

"We asked for a meeting with

Cardinal Rosales and the Metro bishops to request for their intervention to help us on our concerns on labor in particular the unemployment insurance package," Arganoza said.

The meeting would be held at 9am at the Pope Pius Center in Paco, Manila.

Arganoza said the bishops have shown concern on their issues.

Aside from FFW, other labor groups that are expected to attend the meeting include the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), Partido ng Manggagawa and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP).

Manila Auxiliary Bishops Broderick Pabillo and Bernardino Cortez, Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iniguez, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco and Pasig Bishop Francisco San Diego are expected to grace the occasion. ■

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Anti-cyber crime bill pushed

by CHRISTINA MENDEZ
Philstar.com



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile is pushing for a bill that aims to penalize cyber criminals and hackers, including pedophiles who use the Internet to lure victims.

Enrile initiated the move to crush what he described as "an actual danger to democracy," by pushing for the immediate approval of a law penalizing cyber criminals.

"Cyber crime is an actual danger to democracy, human rights

and the rule of law," Enrile said in introducing Senate Bill 3177, otherwise known as Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2009.

"It is a dangerous reality which has to be taken seriously at the highest level," he added.

Enrile explained that measures to fight and prevent cybercrime must be based on laws that fully respect civil liberties.

"It is of utmost importance that an efficient protection and prevention be developed to combat cybercrime," Enrile said.

Under the proposed measure, any person found guilty of the punishable acts enumerated in the proposed measure will be penalized with imprisonment of prison correctional or a fine of at least P100,000, but not exceeding P500,000.

Enrile's bill came even as Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano filed an other proposal seeking Congress approval that some P100 million out of the P11.3-billion supplemental budget for poll automation be set aside as reward for any person who can hack the

system to be used in next year's general elections.

Cayetano said that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) could test the integrity of the poll automation by subjecting the system to hackers.

Colleagues and Comelec officials met his proposal with skepticism.

In defending his bill, Enrile said the growing Internet use, which has given countless opportunities to millions of Filipinos in every conceivable field, created criminal activities that employ the computer either as an instrument, target, or a means for the commission of other illegal acts considered "within the range of cybercrime."

"In recent years, we have witnessed how cybercrime has emerged as the latest and most complicated problem in the cyber world. Criminal activities in cyberspace are on the rise," Enrile said.

He said computers today are being misused for illegal activities like e-mail espionage, credit

card fraud, spam, and software piracy, which "not only invade our privacy but also offend our senses."

In many instances, Enrile said the computer has been utilized as instrument in the following illegal activities: financial crimes, sale of illegal or stolen articles, pornography, online gambling, crimes impinging on intellectual property rights, e-mail spoofing, forgery, cyber defamation and even cyber stalking.

The Senate chief also deplored other crimes committed against the computer itself such as illegal access or hacking, theft of information contained in electronic form, e-mail bombing, virus attacks and Internet time thefts.

He said examples of these crimes involve conduct of illegal access to the whole or any part of a computer system without proper authorization, illegal interception or interception without right made by technical means, of non-public transmission of computer data. ■

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