

70,000 new graduates hired

NEARLY 70,000 new graduates and other job-seekers were hired during the Independence Day job fair, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported last June 14.

DOLE-Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) director Criselda Sy said initial data showed a total of 67,408 "hatch" joined the workforce after they were immediately hired by the various private firms and government agencies that participated in the three-day mega job fair starting last Friday, June 12.

Of the total on-the-spot hiring, Sy said 56,299 were hired under the government's emergency employment program.

Those hired through the emergency employment program will be working with various government agencies for six months, she said.

Sy said the total number of hatch is still expected

to go up since those who were hired yesterday were not yet included in the data.

From June 12 to 13, a total of 86,830 jobseekers have registered for employment in government and private agencies nationwide, Sy said.

"Of those who registered, 11,109 were hired on the spot," she said.

Sy said majority of the applicants hired were residents of Metro Manila.

The DOLE initiated a three-day job fair as part of the Independence Day celebration by offering 400,000 local and overseas jobs.

Among the jobs offered were some 67,000 vacancies in various national and local government units.

Last June 16, more than a hundred recruitment agencies participated in the job fair and offered more than 200,000 jobs overseas. ■

RP unemployment rate slightly lower in April

THE country's unemployment level in April was at 7.5 percent, slightly lower from the eight percent rate posted in the same period of last year, the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported today.

April's unemployment level also eased compared with the 7.7 percent posted in January this year. Most of the unemployed were males between 15 and 24 years old, who only finished their secondary education.

Among all the employed

persons as of April, 32.5 percent were hirer as laborers and skilled workers. More than half of employed people, or 50.3 percent, worked in the services sector. The agriculture and manufacturing sectors were also among the main employers.

The National Capital Region recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 86.5 percent, while the highest unemployment rate was at 13.5 percent.

Meanwhile, underemployment remained at a double-digit

level of 18.9 percent. The country's labor force was estimated at 37.8 million in the month.

Those underemployed refer to "employed persons who expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or in an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours."

The number of underemployed persons in April 2009 was estimated at 6.6 million, most of whom were working in the agriculture and services sectors. (Philstar.com)

Escudero needs boost in pre-poll...

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million and the money will just come later," he said.

And if Escudero also finally decides to run for president, Osmeña said the senator might run under a coalition of political groups.

Escudero is a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). His partymate, Senator Loren Legarda, is also reportedly eyeing the presidency.

"Of course, the more the better. So mas maganda kung sa ilalim ng isang coalition sya tatakbo It's better of he runs under a coalition," Osmeña added. ■

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