

Hiring of foreign workers learning opportunity for PH

MANILA -- An official of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) sees the employment of foreign workers in the country as an opportunity to learn from other nations.

"The other good thing of the mobility of our workers or the coming in of foreign workers is the knowledge exchange because in a way they also help us, we will be able to benchmark on the knowledge coming for other nations. We learn from other practices and culture and to enhance our human capital, our skills, and our competency" DOLE-Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) Director Dominique Tutay said in an interview.

Tutay added foreign workers are needed to further enhance the perspective of the country's labor market.

"It is also part of our

commitment on freer flow of goods and services, the entry of foreign nationals that's in the form of services. It's our free trade commitment. Second, we have reciprocity with other countries. Third, in a globalized economy we are open to accepting foreign nationals, the mobility of our workers is a consequence of globalization," she added.

The DOLE official added that the government must ensure that allowing foreign workers in the country must not sacrifice the Filipino workers, adding that there are regulations that they have to abide for their stay in the country is legal.

Over 86K POGO workers

Based on initial data as of June, Tutay said over 86,000 are employed in Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs).

She noted that em-

ployment in POGOs is not limited to Chinese nationals.

Out of a total of 86,536 people employed in POGOs, 17 percent which is equivalent to 15,500, are Filipinos while the remaining 83 percent or about 71,532 are people of various nationalities.

Chinese nationals comprise around 88 percent of foreign workers in POGOs which is equivalent to 62,907 while the remaining 12 percent are other nationalities such as Malaysian, Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Indonesians, and Thais.

She said the sectors where these foreign nationals are employed include administrative support and service activities.

"Aside from that, we have also in Information and Technology but that's very minimal only 7.7 percent," Tutay

added.

Asked on what are the jobs not available for foreigners, the BLE official said: "Low skilled, low skilled workers, are not for foreign nationals."

"The rule is a foreign worker will be hired only as skilled and professionals. There are also other categories if they would like to invest in retail business, but there is a capitalization requirement," she added.

Earlier, a survey revealed that many Filipinos are worried about the surge in the number of Chinese workers in the country.

The Social Weather Stations' (SWS) reported that 70 percent of adult Filipinos were "worried" about the number of Chinese nationals who are employed in the Philippines.

The survey was conducted from September 27 to 30. (PNA)

341,757 households graduate from 4Ps: DSWD

MANILA -- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said some 341,757 households were already delisted from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) due to attrition or those whose households no longer have eligible children for monitoring.

In an interview on Tuesday, 4Ps National Program Management Director Gemma Gabuya, said that 4Ps has already served 4.88 million households around the country as of Nov. 30, 2019.

"Through this course, several households have exited the program for various reasons and 341,757 of them have exited due to attrition meaning all the children in those families have already graduated," she said.

"There are also 34,513 households for-

Senate ratifies proposed P4.1-T 2020 budget

MANILA -- The proposed PHP 4.1 trillion national budget for 2020 now only needs the signature of President Rodrigo Duterte to be enacted into law after the Senate ratified on Wednesday the bicameral conference committee report on House Bill 4228 or the General Appropriations Bill (GAB).

The House of Representatives had earlier ratified the national expenditure plan.

The Senate swiftly ratified the 2020 budget with no objections from the senators present despite earlier claims by Senator Panfilo Lacson that House members allegedly made last-minute insertions to the budget prior to its signing by the bicameral conference committee.

Lacson said based on a list sent by the House to his office on Tuesday night, the alleged "corruption-driven" insertions

could reach as high as PHP83 billion.

"Pork is here to stay. I hope the President will again exercise his political will in vetoing line items that will obviously waste people's tax money," Lacson said in a statement.

But Senator Juan Edgardo Angara dismissed Lacson's claims, saying the said list is actually the list of projects of congressmen that Lacson has requested.

"Well, taun-taon naman nag-i-insertion tala-ga ang House members.. kasi sa tingin nila, yun ang pangangailangan ng kanilang distrito (House members make insertions yearly because, for them, these are what are needed in their districts)," Angara said in an interview.

Besides, the chair of the Senate Committee on Finance said such projects allocations could not be considered as pork barrel funds if they are item-

ized.

"If it's a line item, according to the Supreme Court, hindi naman siya pork (it is not pork). We tried to conform to the decision of the Supreme Court. We tried to avoid lump sums and we tried to line item the projects, at dito, wala nang (and here, there is no) post-enactment legislation," Angara said.

With the approval of both Chambers of Congress, Angara said they hope to send the printed copy of the ratified budget to President Duterte in five to seven days.

President Duterte then has until December 31 to sign it to prevent a reenacted budget.

"That's our goal given what happened to the 2019 budget. The growth of our economy was greatly affected and many projects in the provinces were not continued. We want to prevent that," Angara said. (PNA)

findings of the study cited that the Pantawid Pamilya program encourages trial use of modern family planning methods, promotes facility-based deliveries and access to professional postnatal care, and improves children's access to some key health care services.

Among Pantawid beneficiaries, the study said about nine in 10 households are covered by the PhilHealth insurance program.

It also mentioned that Pantawid Pamilya keeps older children in school and Pantawid children work seven days less in a month compared to non-Pantawid children.

It added that Pantawid Pamilya increases households' investments in education, does not encourage dependency or spending more on vice goods, and allows parents to aspire for a better future for their children.

in a span of only 11 years.

Based on the Program Implementation Status Report for the first quarter of 2019, 4Ps is now implemented in 144 cities and 1,483 municipalities in 80 provinces from all 17 regions with the number of household-beneficiaries growing to 4,876,394.

With the IRR, 4Ps is on its way towards covering more poor households, providing livelihood opportunities, and extending higher cash grants.

Impact evaluation report

On the Impact Evaluation Report produced every three years by the agency and partner organizations World Bank, Australian Aid, and Asian Development Bank, it indicated the success of 4Ps in keeping Filipino children healthy and in school.

Some of the key

Titans of PH Cinema to be feted during MMFF 2019

The event will be held during the "Gabi ng Parangal" at the New Frontier Theater on December 27, he added.

For their "great support" to the MMFF and contribution to Filipino cinema, four Filipino celebrities will be awarded "Stalwarts of MMFF" -- former president and film actor Joseph "Erap" Estrada, movie pioneer Marichu Maceda, veteran actress Boots Anson-Rodrigo, and National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera.

Other special awardees to be inducted in the MMFF Hall of Fame were divided into several categories.

For the "Director" category, the awardees include Marilou Diaz Abaya, Joel Lamangan, and Jose Javier Reyes.

For "Actor," the awardees are Anthony Alonzo, Christopher de

Leon, and Cesar Montano.

In the "Actress" category, Nora Aunor, Amy Austria, Vilma Santos, and Maricel Soriano will be feted.

For their achievements as "Supporting Actress," the awardees are Eugene Domingo and Cherie Gil.

For "Screenplay," the awardees include Roy Iglesias, Ricardo "Ricky" Lee, and Jose Javier Reyes.

For "Cinematography," the awardees are Rody Lacap, Lee Meily, Carlo Mendoza, and Romeo Vitug.

For "Editing," the awardees are Vito Cajili, Manet Dayrit, Jess Navarro, and Edgardo Vinarao.

For "Sound," the awardees are Ditoy Aguila, Michael Albert Idioma, and Rolly Ruta.

For "Music," the awardees include Dio-

nisio "Nonong" Buen-camino, Von De Guzman, Jaime Fabregas, and Jessie Lasaten.

For "Production Design," the awardees are Rodell Cruz and Joey Luna.

And lastly, for the "Visual Effects" category, Road Runner Network, Inc. will be awarded.

In the same press conference, MMDA General Manager Arturo "Jojo" Garcia said this year's MMFF parade would be the longest in its history, to span a total of 15.2 kilometers and would last approximately seven to eight hours.

The parade, to be held in this year's MMFF host city Taguig, would include floats featuring celebrities from the eight film entries in the festival and will be held on December 22. (PNA)