

DOLE notes increase in senior citizens' employment

MANILA -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Thursday noted an increase in the number of employed senior citizens, particularly those aged 65 and above.

Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) director Dominique Tutay said the hiring of elderly people has improved based on the recent Labor Force Survey (LFS).

"When I say senior citizens, it would refer to 65 years old and over. According to the Labor Force Survey, some 1.8 million are employed aged 65 and over (as) compared to 1.5 million way back in 2013 or 2017," Tutay said in an interview.

The DOLE, the City of Pasay and McDonald's Philippines on Thursday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) wherein the fastfood chain firm will employ over 100 senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) at their 40 stores located in Pasay.

Under the MOA, each McDonald's branch in Pasay will be hiring two senior citizens and a PWD.

"What we launched today in McDonald's in Pasay is very specific. It is for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Aside from the job fair, we saw the signing with McDonald's and the LGU. McDonald's has also been a partner of the Department in terms of hiring senior citizens. This is what we are advocating in various programs of the DOLE," Tutay told reporters on the sidelines of the one-day job and business fair at the Cuneta Astrodome in connection with the 86th founding anniversary of the DOLE next month.

Tutay added that aside from working at the fast-food chain, senior citizens are also allowed to apply in oth-

er jobs.

"In supermarkets or department stores, they can work as ushers of patrons of supermarkets or they could also provide some administrative support. There are also those who are professionals. The elderly's wisdom is different from us so they could also provide advice to companies they are working for," he said.

Also present during the job fair are DOLE Acting Secretary Claro Arellano, Pasay City

PAFOCS eyes top prize in 1st Presidential Silent Drill contest

MANILA -- The Philippine Air Force Officers Candidate School (PAFOCS) is going the extra mile to defeat six other competing service academies in the country for the first Presidential Silent Drill Competition on December 5.

PAFOCS officer-in-charge, 1Lt. Steiger Gonzales, said in an interview that they have begun training a month ago to fully prepare for the drill.

"Now that we have mastered the executions, we are confident to get the top spot," Gonzales said, adding that they will perform the concentric position as the highlight of their performance.

Gonzales said his team consists of the school's lower classmen who are practically newbies in military training.

"It is actually a challenge for us to train lower classmen because they are still fresh from civilian life but in fairness to them, they are competitive and very willing to practice," he added.

In an interview with one of the performers, Officer Candidate Yvette Silva said they have been doing exercises to improve their upper body strength to lift and catch the rifles.

Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, Senator Joel Villanueva; Roy Seneres Jr. of OFW Family Club; Margot Torres, McDonald's Phils, among others.

On the other hand, a total of 59 applicants in the job fair were hired on the spot (HOTS) for local employment.

According to the DOLE, as of 4 p.m., the figure is 6.54 percent of the 847 applicants who registered in the event. The total number of near hires was at 133.

Aside from the

"We know that the other contenders had more time to train for this, especially those from the military schools. So we trained harder so we will have a sure shot at winning," Silva said.

2Lt. John Paul Bibon, Chief Tactical Officer of the Excellence in Leadership Department (ELD), said they have exerted their "200 percent effort for this event."

"We have shed massive amounts of blood, sweat, and tears so we would be proficient in handling the very heavy M14 Rifle," Bibon said. "We always see to it that we are giving our maximum effort and talent in every practice because we represent not only the school but the whole PAF as well."

The officers are also looking forward to enticing the youth to join the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) following the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to make ROTC mandatory again.

Gonzales said if their team wins, they would use the prize money to improve their barracks. They will allocate PHP200,000 to renovate their fitness gym and basketball court.

"The remaining

founding anniversary of the DOLE, the job fair which offered some 15,000 local and overseas jobs was also held in line with the celebration of the 156th Pasay City Foundation Day.

Meanwhile, the DOLE also awarded an emergency assistance fund worth PHP4.8 million to 290 displaced workers of Star City.

About 90 percent of the amusement park in Pasay was damaged when a fire broke out last October 2. (PNA)

PHP100,000 will be given to the performers so they can treat their parents this Christmas," he added.

PAFOCS will be competing against six other service academies -- the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), Philippine Army Officer Candidate School (PAOCS), and the Philippine Navy Officer Candidate School (PNOCS). (PNA)

MANILA -- If he could not decide on whom he would appoint as the next chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), President Rodrigo R. Duterte said he would rather lead the police force himself.

Duterte said he was taking his time in deciding who the next PNP chief will be because he is still conducting an "extensive background check" to ensure the next top cop is free of corruption cases.

"If they have even a single case of corruption, you're out," Duterte said in a chance interview with reporters in Malacañang on Thursday night.

Duterte confident China won't control PH power grid

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday brushed aside the claim that China is capable of controlling the Philippines' power grid.

The President said he sees "no problem" with China's co-ownership of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), a private consortium that manages and operates the Philippines' power transmission infrastructure.

"It cannot be a problem," Duterte told Palace reporters, when sought to react to reports that China can access and shut down the Philippines' power grid.

"And China has talked to us through me. [It asks], 'Kulang ba ang Pilipino ng trust (Do the Filipinos have lack of trust in us)?' But I trust them. I take their word for it," he said.

Transco or the National Transmission Corp, a state-owned firm, owns the grid or the transmission lines that connect power plants to power distribution utilities. Meantime, NGCP manages and operates the grid.

China's State Grid Corp. owns 40 percent of the NGCP.

Some senators and former Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio have raised concerns over Chi-

na's co-ownership of the NGCP.

Carpio on Tuesday said Beijing's control of NGCP should be a "cause for concern" because it would be "easy" for the foreign country to shut down the Philippines' power grid by "inject[ing] malware or software."

On Wednesday, the NGCP said State Grid Corp.'s 40-percent stake in the NGCP is limited to being a "technical adviser".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang also allayed Filipinos' fears, saying that it is "completely groundless" to claim that China has control over the Philippines' power infrastructure.

Duterte said he would believe China rather than Carpio.

He added that the military can handle any issues concerning the country's national security.

"May mga (There are) security issues that can be handled by the military," the President said.

"Hindi ako naniniwala diyan kay Carpio wala namang matinong sinabi iyan eh. Ano ang sinabi niyang nakatulong sa Pilipinas (I don't believe Carpio because he does not make any sense. What are the things he said that became beneficial to the Philippines)?" he added. (PNA)

PRRD to direct PNP himself than appoint corrupt chief

"I would rather not appoint anybody for that matter. Ako na ang hahawak (I will handle it). I will be the one directing... guidance and direction lang naman ako (I will only be there for guidance and direction)," he added.

Asked what would push him to lead the police force himself, Duterte said he would only come up with the decision as a last resort.

"You're talking of arrival, that will be a long journey but that is in the event that I could not find someone I could trust," Duterte said.

He, meanwhile, urged the PNP to suggest the "best guy" who could replace resigned PNP chief Oscar Albayalde who stepped down on Oct. 14 amid the "ninja cops" issue.

"Show me, tell me, who's the best to handle the command. Just give me an honest man,

period. And for all of the Cabinet members including the military men who are about to enter the civilian service. Just be honest, that's all," Duterte said.

He also admitted that there were "so many things that the police has to improve on."

One of the reasons why he was having trouble choosing the next top cop is because many police and military personnel were involved in the illegal drug trade.

"Itong pulis maraming problema. Pati itong mga generals...nila kasama sa droga. Yan ang ayaw ko diyan. Pati generals (These police, they have lots of problems. Even these generals, they're involved in the illegal drug trade. That's what I don't like. Even generals)," Duterte said.

Duterte admitted that he failed to fulfill his campaign promise to end the

illegal drug trade within six months because he did not know the gravity of the country's drug problem until he became president.

"Hindi lumabas 'yan hangga't di ako naging presidente (That didn't surface until I became president)," Duterte said.

On Nov. 19, Duterte said the three police generals on the list of contenders for the next PNP chief are "all good."

Currently, PNP officer-in-charge, Lt. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa is one of the top candidates as PNP chief.

The other contenders for the post are Lt. Gen. Camilo Cascolan, deputy chief for operations and Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, former Metro Manila police director and now heads the directorial staff. (PNA)