Employers Confederation of the Philippines
Report on the Activities during the Enhanced Community Quarantine
as of 15 April 2020

Current Situation of ECOP vis-à-vis the Enhanced Community Quarantine

Community Quarantine was initially declared over the National Capital Region (NCR) on the evening of 12 March 2020. Incidentally, work in ECOP was suspended the following day on 13 March 2020 to give way for building disinfection. An emergency Managers Committee meeting was held on 16 March 2020 to discuss parameters of the work-from-home (WFH) arrangement and skeletal force schedule that ECOP will implement for the duration of the community quarantine. However, on the evening of 16 March 2020, the President declared a Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), which made it impossible for the skeletal force to physically report for work. Hence, beginning 17 March 2020, all ECOP Secretariat Staff were on WFH arrangement. All activities that require physical presence and face-to-face interaction were consequently postponed indefinitely.

ECOP Special Coverage on COVID-19

On the very first day of the ECQ, ECOP consolidated all its efforts to provide relevant and timely information and assistance and some corresponding interventions to its members under one unified campaign entitled “ECOP Special Coverage on COVID-19: Looking After Business and Employment”.

In terms of policy advocacy, ECOP, together with PCCI, PHILEXPORT, Philippine Retailers Association, and Philippine Franchisers Association released a statement at the onset of the ECQ urging employers to release in advance the 13th month pay and other benefits and assistance to help workers during the on-going work stoppage.

Also, the Leaders Forum, composed of ECOP, PCCI, PHILEXPORT, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), and Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), came up with a joint statement outlining its recommendations on how to better implement the Department of Labor and Employment’s COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP).

The Leaders Forum is currently in the process of brainstorming on topics that may be tackled via online platform either through a roundtable discussion or a webinar.

In terms of direct services delivery, the following are continuously mobilized and maximized:

1. **ECOP Service Helpdesk**
   - Non-stop assistance to members who have queries and concerns via Facebook, e-mail, and other online platforms
   - Commonly asked questions:
     - On DOLE’s CAMP
       - Application process, eligibility of beneficiaries, treatment of leave credits, documentary requirements, definition of terms
     - On loans offered by the Social Security System and Home Development Mutual Fund and other important information
       - Application procedures, eligibility to apply, deadline of contribution payments, moratorium
     - Clarifications on the payment of holiday pays
     - Other matters
       - Webinar registration, webinar synopsis and recordings

2. **Advisories and Announcements**
   - Regular updates on government issuances and pronouncements and other important information (using its website, e-bulletin, social media accounts, and CRM)
   - Advisories released:
     - What employers should know about the community quarantine over the entire Luzon
     - Business organizations urge release of 13th month pay, other workers’ benefits
     - Leaders Forum recommendations on how to better implement the DOLE CAMP
     - Webinar synopsis and presentations
     - IOE invitations for webinars
   - Announcements released:
     - ECOP Secretariat on work-from-home scheme during the entire ECQ period
     - Webinar announcements

3. **Fast FAQs**
   - Infographics and quote cards on frequently asked questions about government pronouncements and other information, including webinar highlights
   - Fast FAQs released:
     - ECQ Guidelines
     - CAMP Guidelines
     - FAQs on the CAMP webinar
     - Exhaustion of leave credits vis-à-vis CAMP eligibility

4. **Surveys**
To get more information on the current situation of companies; to get the pulse of members on specific matters

Surveys conducted
  - Impact Assessment Survey
  - Availment of CAMP (financial assistance); how they expect ECOP to assist them with CAMP applications
  - Pulse surveys during webinars

Still part of the special coverage, ECOP launched new services that aim to keep members apprised of important policy issuances, showcase company good practices, and provide employers with resources, materials, and tools that will help them cope with this trying time.

   - Online learning sessions on how employers and workers can cope amid the crisis
   - Topics:

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<td>2. Asec. Nikki Tutay</td>
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<td>25 March 2020</td>
<td>Pag-IBIG Services and Assistance in the Time of a Public Health Emergency</td>
<td>Available loans for members, loan moratorium, role of employers in the application process</td>
<td>1. Mr. Amado Dizon, Senior Vice President for Member Services Sector</td>
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<td>2. Mr. Fermin Sta. Teresa, Senior Vice President for Business Development Sector</td>
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<td>3 April 2020</td>
<td>SSS Services and Assistance in the Time of a</td>
<td>Available loans for members, deferment of payment of premium</td>
<td>Jhoemer Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer II, Member</td>
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   - Documentation and compilation of good business practices especially on work arrangements, salaries and benefits, assistance (financial or in kind), health and safety, etc.
   - Daily release of articles in the website, social media accounts, and CRM
   - Business cases released so far as of 15 April 2020:
     - De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute
     - Ayala Group of Companies
     - Jollibee Food Corporation
     - Yellow Pages
     - Apex Mining Corporation
     - LBC Express, Inc.
     - Pioneer Adhesives, Inc.
     - First Philec
     - A shipping and logistics company
     - Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd.
     - MIS Maritime Corporation

3. **EBMO Actions on COVID-19: Crisis Management and Member Engagement**
   - Documentation and compilation of good foreign and local EBMO practices and initiatives on work arrangements, programs, initiatives, assistance to members, etc. for the benchmarking of local EBMOs, especially the smaller and newer ones
   - Regular release of articles in the website, social media accounts, and CRM
   - EBMO Actions released as of 15 April 2020:
     - Confederation of Danish Industry
     - Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

4. **Prescriptions on Business Survival and Resilience**
   - Resources, reports, guides, tools, and other informational material that may guide business and employers on how to survive and be resilient in such time; includes materials from ILO and IOE
   - Prescriptions released as of 15 April 2020:
     - NEDA Report
5. #ResiliencyandRecoveryPH: An eFora Series
- Joint webinars with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Philippine Exporters Confederation (PHILEXPORT), and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation; weekly webinars until May 2020
- Joint webinars conducted:

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| 1 April 2020 | Stakeholder Speak: How COVID-19 has Affected Movement of Goods and People | 1. Mr. Ferdinand Ferrer, Trustee – Electronics Sector, PHILEXPORT  
2. Ms. Mediatrix Villanueva, President, PHILEXPORT Region 5  
3. Mr. Salvio Valenzuela, Executive Director, Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines |
| 8 April 2020 | MSME COVID-19 Funding: Roles of Government and Private Sector          | 1. Mr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.  
2. Ms. Luna Cacanando, President, DTI Small Business Corp.  
3. Mr. John Carlo Tria, President, Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.  
4. Ms. Griselda Santos, Executive Director, Fintech Alliance |
| 15 April 2020 | Local and Global Supply Chains: Quick Assessment and Ways Forward       | 1. Atty. Vincent Maronilla, Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson, Bureau of Customs  
2. Mr. Charlie Villasenor, Chairman, Procurement and Supply Institute of Asia  
3. Ms. Marilyn Alberto, President, Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association, Inc. |
6. **ECOP eCampus**
   - Soft launch of the online learning platform that will serve as the main brand of ECOP’s online sessions and programs during and after the lockdown

7. **Collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment on the CAMP applications**
   - ECOP encourages members to apply
   - ECOP regularly comes up with a list of the companies applying for CAMP
   - ECOP endorses the list to DOLE for follow-up, monitoring, and expediting of application process
   - Exclusively for members only / a direct service of ECOP to its members

In terms of **member engagement**, ECOP continues to communicate all activities and updates via online channels – ECOP website, social media accounts in Facebook and Instagram, and the CRM software. A climate survey is currently being administered to get the feedback of members and prospective members on how they perceive ECOP as a support organization and how ECOP may improve its mandate and core competence. Despite the economic disruption, ECOP still intends to strengthen its membership base by reaching out to retain members, recruit prospective members, and revive inactive members.

**ECOP on Business as Usual Mode**

The pandemic and the ECQ did not prevent ECOP from implementing projects despite some difficulties and limitations.

ECOP continues to engage with its development partners in firming up and realigning priorities and strategies on the following projects:

1. Strengthening Bipartite Relations
2. Soft Skills Development Program
3. Responsible Supply Chain in Asia
4. Responsible Business Conduct – Phase 2
5. Principles-based, Inclusive, and Sustainable Approach to CSR

The pandemic did not also hinder ECOP in forging new partnerships with organizations like the **Philippine Women's Economic Network, Connected Women**, and **Wadhwani Foundation** and government institutions like the **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** in institutionalizing training programs that target returning overseas workers, women in no-work-no-pay and in work-from-home scheme, and other types of workers (nominated by ECOP member companies).
These training programs will include courses on soft skills development and entrepreneurship. The training of trainers is set to commence within the month of April.

ECOP Post-COVID-19

Taking into consideration that the pandemic might not end any time soon and may last longer than expected, and that the ECQ might have to be continued based on modified parameters after April 30, ECOP is continuously exploring other strategies on how to adapt to the so-called “new normal” in order for the Confederation sustain its operations and dispense advocacy and service functions to its members. This would include the optimum use of technology and the exhausting the full potential of ECOP’s online platforms.

ECOP unwaveringly commits to continue providing relevant and timely assistance, information, and representation especially amidst the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.