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P10 Minimum Wage Effective May 1, 1976

President Marcos ordered the full and immediate implementation of the P10 minimum wage increase provided under Presidential Decree No. 928 for full-time employes of the national government and of government-owned or controlled corporations, effective May 1, 1976.

Under Letter of Instructions No. 426, the minimum pay of all government employes shall be increased to P10 a day or P300 a month, as the case may be, applicable to full-time employes regardless of place of assignment.

According to the LOI, the basis for the increase shall be the actual wage or salary, including all percentage adjustments and cost of living allowance, but excluding subsistence, clothing, laundry and similar allowances already received.

In the case of provincial, city and municipal governments, salaries of employes may be upgraded to the extent of the financial condition of the local government concerned.

Data gathered by the Budget Commission from the various government

departments show that there are some 19,554 employes paid on a daily basis receiving less than P10 a day and 10,425 employes paid on the monthly basis receiving less than P300 a month, or a total of 29,279 national government employes receiving less than P300 a month.

The commission estimates that P12.9 million a year is required to raise to the new minimum wage the pay of these employes.

It also said that this wage increase will inevitably affect the infrastructure program, "although this is already a consequence of the approved increase in minimum wage for the private sector."

Rough estimates indicate that about one-third of infrastructure project costs is for labor and that three-fourths is for workers paid at the minimum rate.

The additional cost as a result of the wage increase, the commission added, at the on-going infrastructure level is, therefore, estimated to range from P300 to P400 million annually.



(Welcome remarks of President Marcos at the Manila International Airport on arrival of President Bongo of Gabonese Republic)

(Response of President Bongo of the Gabonese Republic upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport.)

DECORATIONS. — President Marcos and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, exchanged decorations with visiting President and Madame El Hadj Omar Bongo of the Gabonese Republic in a ceremony held at Malacañang last week. The President conferred upon President El Hadj Omar Bongo the Ancient Order of Sikatuna, rank of rajah, and the Order of Gabriela Silang to Madame El Hadj Omar Bongo. President El Hadj Omar Bongo, on the other hand, conferred on the President the Grand Croix de l'Etoile Equatoriale and on the First Lady the Grand Croix de l'Ordre du Merite. The decorations are the highest within the gift of their respective countries. These decorations are conferred only to heads of state and their ladies. Photo above shows the visiting Gabonese head of state conferring on the President the Grand Croix de l'Etoile Equatoriale. The First Lady watches appreciatively. Other photo shows the First Couple and the visiting Gabonese First Couple wearing their respective decorations.

On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines and its 42 million people, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome the first head of state coming from any of the states of Africa. This first state visit of a head of state of the various nations of Africa establishes the bridge between Africa and Asia.

Mutuality of interests, objectives, purposes, and aspirations binds our two nations. Our people are indeed happy, Your

(Turn to page 2)

I would like, first of all, to thank you for the warm words of welcome that you have addressed to me as the first head of an African state to visit your country. On behalf of my own and Madame Bongo, we are very grateful for this enthusiastic and warm welcome that you have reserved for us.

Allow me, first of all, to inform you that as the first African head of state to visit the Philippines as you have said a while ago, we share the same

(Turn to page 2)