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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

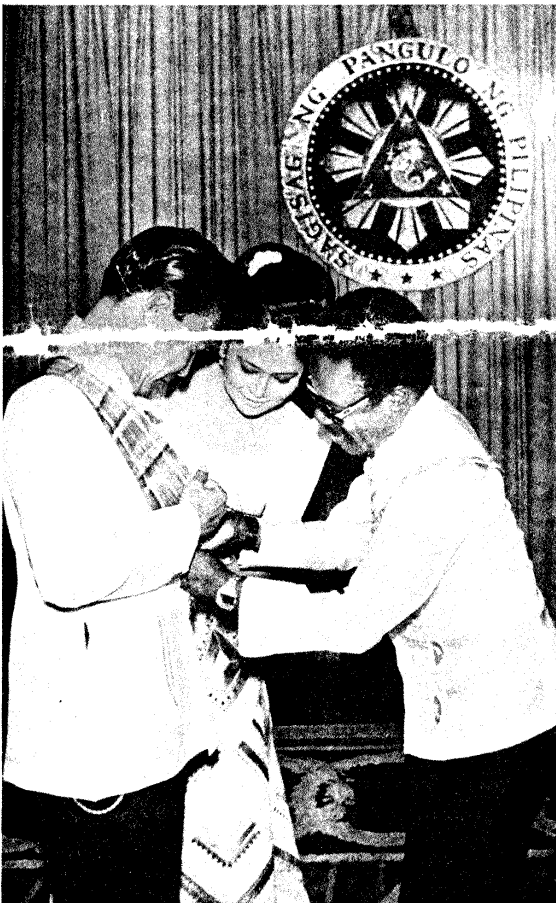
departments show that there are some 19,554 employes paid on a daily basis receiving less than P10 a day and 10,425 employes paid on the monthly basis receiving less than P300 a month, or a total of 29,279 national government employes receiving less than P300 a month.

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

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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

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FM Message

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Excellency, to see you here and they extend to you this welcome and the hospitality of our land and our people.

You have travelled very far, indeed, to pioneer in this mission to bring together two of the most undeveloped areas of the world - Africa and Asia.

I am certain that these efforts of Your Excellency are appreciated not only by the Filipino people and by the peoples of the member nations of ASEAN - Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines -

but also by the other peoples of Asia. Indeed your country and ours have passed through a parallel story of deprivation, impoverishment, colonization, and today our efforts at development after attainment of political independence.

We therefore greet you, Excellency, on behalf of the Filipino people, as well as the peoples of Asia: on this, I repeat, the first visit of a head of state of Africa to the Republic of the Philippines.

Welcome and Mabuhay.

Local Gov'ts Can Avail Of LBP Credit Facilities

The Land Bank of the Philippines announced that local governments can now avail of the LBP's credit financing facilities, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 752.

The LBP will give financial assistance to local governments for the establishment, development, or expansion of agricultural, industrial, home financing projects, and other productive self-liquidating projects which will directly or indirectly benefit farmer-beneficiaries or agrarian reforms.

Eligible borrowers are provinces, cities and municipalities where there are farmer-beneficiaries of agrarian as defined under PD 717.

Beneficiaries of the scheme include tillers, tenant-farmers, settlers, agricultural lessees, amortizing owners, owner cultivators, farmer-cooperatives and

compact farms.

The amount of loans that any local government entity may get, Land Bank said, depends on the actual requirements needed to establish the project on a self-sustaining basis or to keep it operating on a viable and profitable basis.

LBP said repayment period for the loan will depend on the type of project to be financed and the paying capacity of a borrower as determined to exceed 10 years, including grace period.

The loan requirements:

- A resolution of the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlalawigan authorizing the local government to borrow from the LBP to finance a proposed project and authorizing the provincial governor, city or municipal mayor to sign all papers pertinent thereto:

- Endorsement or recommendation of the project by the secretary of finance.

- Feasibility study and surveys - to be prepared by the appropriate government instrumentality - to justify self-liquidating nature of the project. Included in the feasibility study are financial projections covering the project period.

- Affidavit to be executed by the borrower that it has no other loan application with other financial institutions for the same purpose applied for with the LBP. With respect to loans already contracted, a certification by the city or municipality and treasurer as to the amount approved will be required.

- Financial statement of the local government prepared and certified by the Commission on Audit.

Trade Houses In Mideast Selling More Products

The Philippine trading house in the Middle East achieved a big success during its initial operations because of the huge demand for food products and finished consumer items by the oil-rich Arab states.

Operated by a private businessman - Sheik Taveer Hassari - on authority of the Department of Trade, the Philippine trade house in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, posted a record sale of US\$4,845,140 during a period of nine months.

This nine-month performance surpassed the \$2,474,795 export sales generated by the trade house in Toronto and the \$2,048,000 sale posted by the Philippine Center New York during the same period.

Tapping the list of products sold by Dubai House were: manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials, \$2,555,058 followed by food and live animals, \$2,140,059.

The trade house in Dubai is one of the latest display and export promotion centers the Philippines established last year.

The house coordinating office said the bulk of the country's exportation to Dubai consisted of food, live animals and manufactured goods.

The Dubai house is the 17th

the Philippines has established abroad. Of the number, however, only 13 have reported their sales achievements. These are in Hongkong, Auckland (New Zealand), Vancouver (Canada), Okinawa, Sydney (Australia), Las Vegas (US), Singapore, Tokyo, Bladel (Holland), and Gotenborg (Sweden), aside from Dubai, New York and Toronto. All these have pooled a total of US\$11,352,942.

The four houses which have not yet submitted their reports are in Bangkok (Thailand), Detroit (US), Mainz (West Germany) and Peking.

The breakdown of the income of the 13 trade centers during the same period: New York, \$2,048,000; Hongkong, \$22,837.87; Auckland, \$45,830; Vancouver, \$15,990; Sweden, \$50,838.72; Okinawa, \$54,210.39; Toronto, \$2,474,795; Las Vegas, \$36,422.55; Sydney, \$114,418; Singapore, \$48,953.02; Tokyo, \$1,274,940; Bladel, \$320,567.15; Dubai, \$4,845,139.70.

Secretary of Trade Troadio T. Quizon, Jr. said the Dubai house rose to prominence when it offered products at competitive prices immediately upon its operation.

GSIS Grants P14M Salary, Policy Loans To Employees

The Government Service Insurance System has granted policy and salary loans totalling P14,356,835 to 10,736 members last month.

These loans represent applications filed in the GSIS Metro Manila office which cover 234,621 members in three cities and 13 towns in the area. The cities are Manila, Caloocan and Pasay.

Quezon City members are served by an extension office in that city, which also covers members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Also served by the Manila bureau are national offices located in the city.

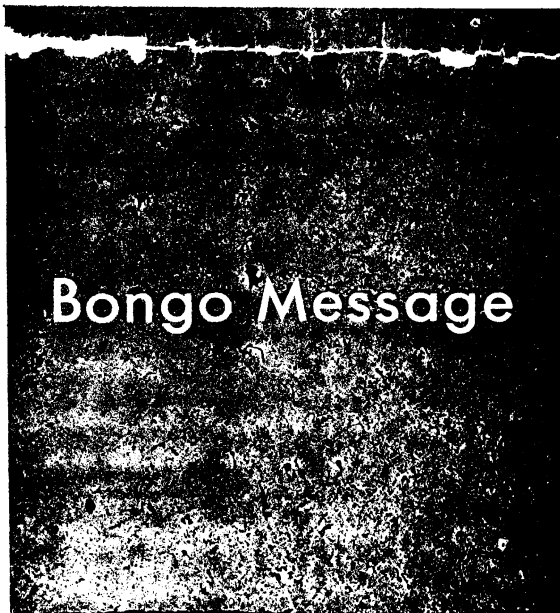
The number of members served by the Quezon City extension office totalled 120,487.

Of the 4,998 policy loan applications 4,576 were approved, 216 were rejected and 206 still being processed at the end of last month.

Policy loans granted totalled P3,852,993.

In the salary loan applications, 6,160 have been approved of 7,499 filed; 1,313 were rejected while 26 were still being processed at the end of May.

Salary loans granted totalled P9,503,842.



Bongo Message

(Continued from page 1)

we have travelled to Cuba to explore fields of cooperation and friendship.

We are glad to visit the Philippines to understand you better and to explore fields of cooperation and friendship. Cuba is a friendly country present in a progressive development, like most of the countries of the Third World. And although most of the Cuban people are here with me today, I am sure that they will appreciate the

have given me through the Cuban media which you have also welcomed to the city of Manila.

Allow me, Mr. President, to take this opportunity to tell you that we came to visit the Philippines to study your problems so that we may together be in a position to join hands and cooperate in their resolution.

Again, Mr. President, I thank you.