



## **STATEMENTS 2011**

### **Message at the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with partners of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour in Quezon**

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**1 September 2011  
Quezon Province, Philippines**

- Governor Suarez of Quezon Province
- Vice-Governor Alcala
- Mayors of Lucena City, Calauag and Catanaun
- Child labour implementing partners and officials from DOLE, DepEd, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, DTI and TESDA.
- Ladies and gentlemen, *magandang umaga sa inyong lahat* (Good morning to all of you)!

It is an honour for me and the ILO to partner with you in the fight against child labour in Quezon Province!

I know that everyone here today recognizes that child labour is a complex problem. However, the leading contributing factor to child labour is poverty which forces family down the path of vulnerable forms of employment.

Most people are often left with little choice but to accept or create whatever forms of work they can find, just so they and their loved ones can survive another day.

Families trapped in poverty, parent and adults without access to decent and productive employment themselves, see little choice but to expose their children to the world of work at such an early age.

The Philippine Development Plan and the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan have included the fight against child labour among its targets.

The ILO supports the country in realizing this goal, at the same time in achieving sustainable inclusive growth through decent and productive work as part of the Philippine Jobs Pact.

The ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), with the support of the US Department of Labor, has targeted 18 barangays in the city of Lucena, the municipalities of Catanaun and Calauag to demonstrate effective models of putting an end to child labour.

The baseline study conducted in these areas has revealed that there are nearly 1,300 households with child labourers. They are involved in hazardous work mostly in agriculture, domestic work, street vending, and scavenging

From these households, the project aims to withdraw 1,500 child labourers and 1,000 children at-risk of becoming child labourers.

Together with child labour partners, the project will implement the following interventions:

- To deliver educational and health services with the Department of Education,
- To provide services for families which include counselling of children and Parent Effectiveness Seminars (PES) with provincial and local social welfare offices, and
- To support communities by helping them in monitoring child labour with the Department of Labor and Employment.

At the same time, families with child labourers will be supported in livelihood activities based on improving the production, processing and marketing of coconut, smoked fish and vegetables.

Interventions to upgrade these products can improve the capacity of families to access markets and build sustainable enterprises that create decent and productive work.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, we can work towards the common goal of putting an end to child labour in Quezon Province by:

- focusing resources to vulnerable groups, which includes those families of child labourers,
- ensuring greater impact through improved collaboration and convergence of child labour initiatives, and
- sustaining initiatives beyond the IPEC Project through provincial and local efforts to ensure that child labour will be integrated in development plans, and legislations to fight child labour will be crafted and enforced.

We hope to further strengthen our bonds and partnerships. Let's work together to scale up our efforts and re-energize the campaign to put an end to child labour in Quezon Province!

Thank you and Mabuhay!