

TESDA signs partnership to boost employability of tech-voc graduates

THE Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) said it entered into a partnership with the job recruitment platform Bossjob to boost the job readiness of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) graduates.

"The CollaboraTVET initiative... underscores our dedication to fostering strategic alliances, particularly with private industries. Our primary objective is to ensure that our TVET programs are finely attuned to meet the evolving demands of these industries," TESDA's National Capital Region Director Jovencio M. Ferrer, Jr. said in a statement.

Bossjob will provide customized training courses designed specifically for TESDA gradu-

ates, in addition to offering employment leads and resources for career advancement.

The partnership aims to provide TESDA graduates in the NCR guaranteeing employment once they are trained.

"This collaboration is about forging an ecosystem enriched with our innovative tools and programs where TESDA graduates can flourish and significantly contribute to the country's economic prosperity. We are committed to working hand in hand with TESDA to ensure that our programs are finely tuned to the evolving needs of the workforce and the industries we serve," Bossjob Country Manager Kimberly Chen said in a statement. — **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**

OFW remittances from Europe seen posting sustained gains

THE Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said on Thursday that it is projecting sustained growth in remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Europe.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported record remittances overall last year with \$37 billion, of which \$3.8 billion came from Europe, DMW Undersecretary for Policy and International Cooperation Patricia Yvonne M. Caunan said at a virtual briefing on Thursday.

"From 2022, we can see that there was a 3-5% increase in remittances. We can see that with the number of engagements we're having (in Europe), it will definitely increase in 2024," she said.

The DMW signed a labor agreement with the Czech Republic last month, which raised the visa quota for OFWs to 10,500 from 2,000.

"Upon signing, we were able to see the demand from Czech companies for Filipino workers," Ms. Caunan said.

She said that individual Philippine ambassadors in Europe have also attested to the demand for Filipino workers.

The Philippines signed a labor deal with Austria in Vienna last year. The undersecretary said the agreement was ratified last month.

"We are looking at (developing) a sustainable recruitment

framework, especially in the recruitment of healthcare workers, in particular, our nurses. The DMW is focused on the cooperation framework, where we'll work together (with partner countries) in ensuring, not just the supply of workers, but also in increasing the supply here in the country," she added.

The DMW has also partnered with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for the training of workers in industries other than healthcare.

DMW Officer-in-Charge Hans Leo J. Cacadac, a former administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration,

said: "We know for sure that European governments are more than ever opening up (to Filipino workers)."

"We welcome this openness of European governments in the heightening or enhancing of the protection of our OFWs," he added.

Ms. Caunan said Hungary, Portugal, and Spain are among the European nations the DMW signed labor partnerships with. Hungary, specifically, is asking for 10,000-20,000 more OFWs.

Finland and Denmark also visited the Philippines to explore possible labor agreements, Ms. Caunan said. — **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**

OPINION

What to do when seeking a promotion

After working as a supervisor for the past 10 years, I believe I'm ready to be promoted to a managerial post. What's the best approach? Should I formalize my request? — **Ready to go.**

None of the above. The best approach is for you to establish a consistent, above-average performance for at least five years before asking for a promotion. You must also establish that you possess certain skills that are difficult to find elsewhere. Focus on these two things. And don't even attempt to say you deserve a promotion after 10 years. That would sound entitled.

Katy Evans is right: "Don't talk, act. Don't say, show. Don't promise, prove." In other words, it's better that your performance do the talking and let your boss reciprocate. After all, no boss in his right mind

would ignore an impressive track record.

Theoretically, you must also understand the basic meaning of a performance management system (PMS) which I suppose is present in your organization in various forms: One, as a strategic link between an employee's career goals and his track record with the organization's vision, mission, and values. Two, as an administrative reference for merit pay increase, promotion, demotion, discipline, and up to the termination of employment. And three, as a developmental tool to help managers and their direct reports develop their maximum potential or overcome shortcomings through training or other progressive tools.

PMS, as an evaluation and feedback mechanism, provides an opportunity for a formal interaction between a boss and his direct reports. That's the only thing I can think of, if and when you decide to proceed to stay in the same organization.

OTHER OPTIONS

What if you decide to stay, say for another two or three years, and exceed the boss' expectations, but still no promotion is forthcoming. What's next? There are two options — ask for an inter-department transfer or resign. That's assuming there's another department willing to accept you and there's a job offer somewhere.

Before doing anything, I suggest talking with your boss. It's possible that they don't care about you. Or, they too may be suffering from the same problem as you've been experiencing. It's either that your boss has fallen from the good graces of top management that it would be difficult for you to be recommended to a promotion.

Find out more about it from the grapevine. It could be the right time for you. Wait a little longer as you explore other opportunities elsewhere. While you're at it, examine all the angles, if and when your boss is removed from the equation for whatever reason. It could be your chance.

Also, remember to protect your seniority rights. If you've been in that

organization for 13 years, it's best to stay put by exploring an intra-department transfer. However, all this depends on your personal circumstances like age, marital status and the size of your family. If you're at least 45 years old, I suggest that you stay a little longer.

Accepting a job elsewhere is not an assurance that you will be materially rewarded in the long term or fully accepted by people with different cultures and agenda, among other reasons. It happened to me and to many of my contemporaries who moved to another company. It was too late by the time we found out that we had jumped out of the frying pan direct to the fire.

UNDERSTAND YOURSELF

I started as a working college student in 1971. None of us fully understands who we are in terms of career goals. Even if we take stock of our diplomas, certificates, awards and years of work experience, we need to dig deeper into what we can truly do for our current organi-

zation while trying to achieve our personal goals.

Job hunting is totally different from staying put in one organization until retirement. Not too many people would do that. If they're not happy or being treated unfairly, they would surely pack their bags even in the absence of a new job. Therefore, I would advise that you do the following as your homework:

One, acquire as many skills as possible. Two, widen your professional network, either in person or through social media. Three, volunteer to perform difficult assignments with your employer. And last, be kind to all people, regardless of their status. You'll never know how things turn out in the future.

Bring REY ELBO's leadership program called "Superior Subordinate Supervision" to your line leaders. Contact him via Facebook, LinkedIn, X or e-mail elbonomics@gmail.com or via <https://reyelbo.com>



Tech companies Microsoft and Quantinuum claim breakthrough in quantum computing

MICROSOFT and Quantinuum on Wednesday said they have achieved a key step in making quantum computers a commercial reality by making them more reliable.

The move is the latest in a race to perfect quantum computing in which tech firms such as Microsoft, Alphabet's Google and IBM are jostling with both rivals and nation states to create machines that take advantage of quantum mechanics to promise speeds far faster than conventional silicon-based computers. Those quantum machines could make feasible scientific calculations that would otherwise take millions of years with today's classical computers.

But the fundamental unit of quantum computers — called a "qubit" — is

fast but finicky, producing data errors if the quantum computer is even slightly disturbed. To solve that problem, quantum researchers often build more physical qubits than needed and use error-correction techniques to yield a smaller number of reliable and useful qubits.

Microsoft and Quantinuum said they had made a breakthrough in that field. Microsoft applied an error-correction algorithm that it wrote to Quantinuum's physical qubits, yielding about four reliable qubits from 30 physical ones.

Jason Zander, Microsoft's executive vice president for strategic missions and technologies, said the company believes that is the best ratio of reliable qubits from a quantum chip that has ever been shown.

"We ran more than 14,000 individual experiments without a single error. That's up to 800 times better than anything on record," Mr. Zander told Reuters in an interview.

Microsoft said it plans to release the technology to its cloud computing customers in the coming months.

Quantum researchers, both at Quantinuum and its rivals, often cite a figure of about 100 reliable qubits as the number needed to beat a conventional supercomputer. Neither Microsoft nor Quantinuum on Wednesday would say how many more years they will need to use the new technique to hit 100 reliable qubits.

But Ilyas Khan, the chief product officer of Quantinuum, said, "The current view is that we have lopped at least two years off that, if not more." — **Reuters**

EU scraps sovereignty labeling rules requirement in cybersecurity certification

BRUSSELS — Amazon, Alphabet's Google and Microsoft may find it easier to bid for European Union (EU) cloud computing contracts after draft cybersecurity labeling rules scrapped a requirement that vendors should be independent from non-EU laws, according to the document seen by Reuters.

The European Union has struggled to agree to a cybersecurity certification scheme (EU-CS) to vouch for the cybersecurity of cloud services and help governments and companies in the bloc to select a secure and trusted vendor for their business.

The move comes as Big Tech looks to the lucrative government cloud market to spur growth. The EU on the other hand

fears illegal state surveillance while some governments worry that the dominance of US cloud providers may inhibit nascent EU rivals.

One draft circulated to EU governments last year required US tech giants to set up a joint venture with an EU-based company and store and process customer data in the bloc to qualify for the European Union cybersecurity label.

Such so-called sovereignty requirements sparked criticism from European banks, clearinghouses, insurance groups and some startups which said technical provisions rather than political and sovereignty obligations should prevail. — **Reuters**

Boeing 737 output drops on quality checks

BOEING 737 MAX jetliner production has fallen sharply in recent weeks as US regulators step up factory checks and workers slow the assembly line outside Seattle to complete outstanding work, industry sources told Reuters.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has imposed a cap of 38 jets a month following a blowout on a 737 MAX in January, blamed on an assembly error. But the monthly output rate is fluctuating well below this level and in late March fell as low as single digits, they said.

Boeing referred to comments by chief financial officer Brian West who said last month it was taking comprehensive steps to strengthen quality and build confidence — including reducing the amount of so-called traveled or pending work — as the FAA increases audits.

West told a Bank of America event that the FAA was "deeply involved and undertaking a tougher audit than anything we've ever been through before."

Boeing also says it has made efforts to reduce the amount of so-called

"traveled work" — or planes moving down the line with jobs still needing to be fixed from earlier work stations. The effect is to slow overall production and, in turn, deliveries.

Boeing has faced increased scrutiny following the loss of a door plug on an Alaska Airlines jetliner in January. Shares in the planemaker ended down 1.7%.

Planmakers get paid for their jets upon delivery, but the underlying production rate dictates the pulse of an industrial system feeding thousands of aerospace suppliers worldwide.

Boeing's production slowdown is also expected to ripple through the airline industry, with carriers shaving flights from their schedule or extending existing jet leases to meet demand.

Traditionally, production and deliveries went hand in hand, but the grounding of the MAX in 2019 and 2020 and disruption from the pandemic created a stockpile of surplus jets that mean it is harder now to glean the production rate from deliveries.

To try to understand how fast Boeing's main cash cow is being built, inde-

pendent experts study the number of first test flights being carried out for individual new jets each month.

Rob Morris, global head of consultancy at Cirium Ascend, said Boeing flew 13 MAXs in March, following 11 in February. The rate peaked around 38 a month in mid-2023, Cirium data shows.

Airbus, by contrast, flew an average of 46 a month of its competing A320neos in the first quarter, Mr. Morris said.

Boeing's European rival has its own supply constraints and is producing around 50 A320neo-family jets a month, below the 58 originally targeted early this year, industry sources have said.

It also faces ongoing shortages of maintenance capacity for some engines, leaving jets idle for months once in service.

But with Boeing having to slow production sharply in order to satisfy FAA inspectors that its industrial operations are working smoothly, Airbus has extended a comfortable lead in the market for the most-sold category of single-aisle jets. — **Reuters**



MERALCO IMPROVES SERVICE IN PASAY CITY — Manuel V. Pangilinan-led Manila Electric Company (Meralco) recently constructed a new 115 kilovolts (kV) line with a length of 2.1 kilometers to improve the reliability of its sub-transmission system in Pasay City. The PAGCOR 1-CBP1A 115 kV Line will also accommodate new customer applications and future load growth in the area.

The P249.01-million project is in anticipation of the connection of the future ASEANA-1 gas insulated switchgear substation into the PAGCOR 1-Metpark 115 kV Line.

As part of its commitment to #KeepingTheLightsOn and #PoweringABrighterTomorrow, Meralco continuously invests in the improvement of its distribution system to ensure the delivery of safe, stable, and reliable electric service to its customers.