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President orders TESDA to gear courses toward higher-paying jobs

MANILA, Jan. 16 (PGON) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered on Tuesday the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to undertake a review of its training courses and come up with courses that meet the requirements of higher-paying jobs here and abroad.

The President issued the directive during the Cabinet Group meeting in Malacanang amid calls by various industries, including the business process outsourcing (BPO) and call centers, for the accelerated training of workers to meet the manpower requirements of the growing BPO sector.

The President said that aligning TESDA training courses with the requirements of the labor market would reduce further the number of unemployed Filipinos, considering the huge demand for skilled workers both in the Philippines and abroad.

“Develop courses that produce quality and skilled workers,” she told TESDA officials headed by Director-General Augusto Syjuco, Jr.

Syjuco said that in compliance with the President’s directive, he would immediately create a team to undertake the review of TESDA training courses.

He added that the team would concentrate on the training of Filipinos for high-skilled jobs such as welders, pipe fitters, electricians and carpenters.

TESDA is closely coordinating with the industry sector and manning agencies to monitor their manpower requirements and, at the same time, check the status of those who had taken TESDA courses, Syjuco said.

The President, through the TESDA, also allotted funds for the PGMA Skills Training for Work scholarships program.#

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