

REGIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLES SURVEYS: 2006

Region	Problems Encountered		Measures Undertaken by the RO to Solicit Cooperation of Sample Establishments	Suggestions for Improvement of Survey Implementation			
	Administrative Concerns	Field Operations		Training of Enumerators and Area Supervisors	Manpower Complement	Fund Utilization	Field Operations
CAR		Most of the establishments give the dates for collection, but cannot beat the deadline they have set for themselves.	We have hired the same PBIs, hence are familiar with the establishment personnel covered by the survey.		BLES to push for the provision of a plantilla position for statistician in our region.		
I	Lack of material time in the recruitment and selection of PBIs. Delayed release of fund (2 nd tranche)	The amount allocated for the delivery of survey questionnaires is just enough for the fares of the PBIs. Some establishments are still hesitant to accomplish the forms.	Massive persuasion through personal visits and telephone calls.		DOLE-ROs be given ample time for the recruitment and selection of PBIs.	Traveling allowance should be allocated for PBIs especially for establishments located in far flung areas.	Longer survey period should be considered to allow more time on retrieval and editing of survey questionnaires.
II	One enumerator backed out in the middle duration of survey operation. Some funds for wages were utilized for traveling and supplies expenses.	Mailed questionnaires for Batanes did not respond.	Coordinated with Labor Standards Enforcement personnel for them to inform establishments regarding the conduct of the survey.	Survey Manuals given to RO should be based on the actual number of enumerators hired.	Regional Office should be advised earlier on the conduct of the survey so that we could have ample time to hire competent PBIs.	Increase budget allocation for transportation, supplies, communication services and training expenses.	
III	Adequate training was conducted to enumerators, however, not all could readily internalize all the learning given in the training.	Respondents from government-owned and controlled corporations such as PAGCOR, NHA and other government-utility corporations have been uncooperative and	Effective orientation of BLES Survey for Enumerators. Letter-request from the RO to ensure cooperation of economic zones to give assistance	The regional or area supervisors must be involved/ consulted in the drafting of survey form. Most respondents	Additional enumerators are needed for fast retrieval of delivered questionnaires.		It is suggested that this feedback mechanism be given a serious consideration to improve program implementation.

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III (cont'd.)	Two PBIs backed out during the implementation of the program but not immediately inform the Regional and Area supervisors, thus resulting to some spoilages of some questionnaires. Moreover, one PBI was caught tampering retrieved questionnaires, thus, new sets of questionnaires had to be delivered to respondents which caused additional delay.	refuse to participate because of the reason that the government agencies are excused to partake in such survey activity. Many of the sample establishments were already reported earlier either permanently closed, cannot be located, non-existence and duplicates in the previous survey which was conducted in 2004. Moreover, some questionnaires have misspelled names of companies or have the wrong addresses.	in the implementation of program and likewise issue certification of closed establishments identified in the economic zones.	have found the survey questionnaire not user-friendly and time-consuming to fill-up. It is suggested that simple layman's term to be used in the questionnaires (ex. Fortnightly to bi-monthly or every 15 or 30).			Moreover, it is also highly requested that AWECA Group of Companies (Asia Rattan, Calturn and Weavers Craft) be removed from the sample establishments because of its refusal to answer the questionnaires for many years now. (This is the same feedback given to BLES in 2004 status of implementation.)
IV-A	The RO was not given enough time to choose applicants for enumerators. The RO experienced shortage of fund due to delayed Interfund Transfer.	There were so many spoilage questionnaires.			The BLES should review the timetable being set for the conduct of the next survey. Noticeably, the period of Sept. 1 to Dec . 5, 2006 provides too little	The interfund transfer should be done only once to prevent the instance that happened in RO IV-A when the second appropriation	The BLES should conduct regular feedback meeting with the regional offices. The BLES should update their records on existing

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IV-A (cont'd.)					time for the regional personnel to hire 27 PBIs and to prepare the conduct of training while they were only given 5 days to undertake such.	was almost cancelled by the Central Office.	establishments.
V	The region did not hire an area supervisor, instead, an additional enumerator was hired. The PBIs found it difficult to complete the survey due to the absence of communication facilities and difficulty in transportation brought about by two major calamities that beset the region.	Some sample establishments were no longer existing or cannot be located on the given address. Some GOCC sample respondents were not cooperative unlike the private sample establishments. The devastating effect of super typhoons Milenyo and Reming brought difficulty to our field enumerators. After the typhoon Milenyo, the province of Albay, Sorsogon and Camarines Sur experienced total blackout for almost one month. It was only in the	Even if our region was devastated by two strong typhoons, at least we were able to retrieve more than 50% with the help of our efficient enumerators.	There should be a clear instructions on filling up questionnaires specifically on OWS Part C.	Sufficient number of enumerators shall be engaged to meet the target on time.		Efforts of enumerators must be focused on those uncooperative GOCCs. An updated list of establishments should be used to avoid spoilage questionnaires.

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V (cont'd.)		3 rd week of November when electricity and communication were restored. However, before our enumerators can resume their job, the much more devastating super typhoon Reming paralyzed the activities in the region particularly the province of Albay. Communication and transportation facilities were totally destroyed. Houses and offices were buried by the lava flow and many of the questionnaires were destroyed by floods.					
VI	Lack of time to post for the hiring of PBIs. Hiring of PBIs exclusively for other provinces in Panay as proposed was quite difficult since majority of applicants were residents of Iloilo City. Limited budget for the supervisors to closely monitor the conduct of	Negative attitudes of the management/contact persons re survey. Unavailability of responsible person from the establishment at the first visit/during the delivery of questionnaire. Transfer of locations and unknown addresses of the establishments. Failure of the contact person	Personal visits of regional supervisors to big establishments who religiously cooperate to thank them and solicit suggestions. Regional/Area supervisors personally assist enumerators in explaining about the survey to non-cooperative		Regional offices should be informed at least a month before the proposed conduct of the survey for ample time to hire qualified applicants.	Budget should be released in full for timely payment of payroll to PBIs. Provide/Allocate budget for cell card to Regional/Area supervisors considering its necessity and usefulness for the	It is ideal to conduct the survey immediately after the 1 st semester of the year and not on the last quarter of the year.

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VI (cont'd.)	survey of the PBIs in Negros Occidental and other provinces. No specific funds allocated for cell cards for RO and Area Supervisors which is a necessity for monitoring and answering queries of PBIs on field. Delayed release of the 2 nd half of the budget which hinders timely payment of salaries to PBIs.	to fulfill their promise to retrieve survey form on the agreed date despite follow-ups on phone causing additional comebacks/visits.	establishments.			success of the survey.	
VII	Two-day training was not enough for new enumerators to fully absorb everything. Even if we have screened and hired the best and most intelligent enumerators, this was not an assurance of 100% retrieval. We need to hire more to cover the area. We need additional	Duplication of establishments, wrong addresses, arrogant respondents, refusal. Some establishments which have closed and cannot be located were still in the masterlist.	Have made follow-up calls. Have sent follow-up letters/communication.	Training should be well-funded and should be comprehensive for enumerators. New PBIs cannot easily grasp the nature of the job.	Hiring of more enumerators to ease the burden of the few because Region VII is big and travel time can eat up most of the manhours when they go to Bohol and Negros Oriental.	Additional funding for the region as we were not able to hire a field supervisor for lack of funds. Traveling and supplies do not have enough funds.	Masterlist should delist establishments which were permanently closed. It should be updated, not to include those which cannot be found.

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VII (cont'd.)	funding for hiring additional enumerators, traveling expenses and to cover communication expenditures.						
VIII	Mid-October 2006, one PBI was hired as substitute employee at Eastern Visayas State University, thus, we only have one PBI left to deliver/retrieve the questionnaires. Considering the limited time left for the conduct of this survey, we, therefore, decided to augment the manpower complement thru our Regional Supervisors concerned.		Before the delivery of questionnaires, we called up concerned personnel of the establishments for his availability, possible change of address, etc. We also coordinated the PEOs for their assistance in locating the out of town establishments/ cooperatives since they know the area and the people better. As much as possible, we suggested to the PBIs that questionnaire should not be left out to establishments especially outside Tacloban City. If so, contact person and contact number should				

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VIII (cont'd.)			be asked for easy follow-up. Establishments were encouraged to be interviewed knowing it was easier to be filled-up with the assistance of the PBIs and that this will cut the number of hours to accomplish the same.				
IX	Limited fund	Some establishments were closed and others refused to answer the questionnaires because they don't want to be involved especially GOCC.	Assured establishments of the confidentiality of data given to us.			Requires fund utilization especially in travel and supplies expenses.	Requesting the Bureau not to include the establishments which are already closed in order to save time, effort and money. They must try to check the reports submitted to them by the ROs for CY 2006.
X	One enumerator backed-out during the collection period. One enumerator was not able to finish the retrieval of	High transportation costs especially in remote areas. Peace and order situation in remote areas in Lanao del Norte. Some employers were	Area supervisor talked to management if person responsible was hesitant to fill-up the questionnaires handed by the PBI.	First time hired PBIs suggested of role playing since orientation briefing is different from the actual.	Hiring of five PBIs is sufficient to the actual number of establishments included in the survey.	Travel expenses should be allocated to the PBIs since their wage is not sufficient for the	Peace and order situation of the area should be considered before including the establishment in

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X (cont'd.)	questionnaires, thus, the delay in the submission. Regional/Area supervisor has too many obligations in the office that checking of the questionnaires was delayed. No funding for the PBIs' travel expenses especially during their first delivery of questionnaires.	hesitant in receiving the questionnaires. Management of the establishment had no time allotted in filling-up the questionnaire. Person responsible in filling-up the questionnaires was not available.	Strict time allotment to employers. PBIs were willing to sit with hesitant employers in answering the questionnaires. Diplomacy of PBIs and area supervisors in handling employers. Patience in explaining thoroughly the purpose of the survey.			travel cost due to high fare increase and remote areas have higher transportation costs. Travel expenses should be separate from the wage of the PBIs.	the survey.
XI	Funds allotted for the two-day training of PBIs and one regional staff were not sufficient. One enumerator failed to comply the desired retrieval for some personal reasons. Her load was equally distributed to co-enumerators who were willing to accept additional load instead of hiring replacements.	Delivery payment of P85 per establishment was not sufficient considering that some establishments were quite far and there were limited means of transportation. Respondents failed to comply with their commitment to submit the survey forms. Enumerators/Supervisors cannot compel the establishments to submit the survey forms. There were some	Validated establishments' addresses before sending enumerators on field to ensure correctness of addresses. Regional supervisor personally went to some establishments to do the interview and assist in filling-up the questionnaires. The Regional Director personally made an effort to follow up thru phone to some respondents especially those who have			Increase delivery payment of the enumerators to cover expenses to follow-up retrieval of questionnaire especially for those establishments without telephone lines.	There should be penalty or sanction from the Department to compel establishments to comply with the survey. BLES should provide a uniform token or certificate of appreciation signed by the Secretary himself to be

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XI (cont'd.)		establishments that have no telephone lines and refused to give their mobile phone numbers that can be used for follow-ups for retrieval.	passive attitudes. The regional staff made an extra effort explaining to some of the respondents the usefulness and manner of presentation of the final output of these surveys.				given to our valued respondents as a sign of our gratitude for their cooperation and support.
XII		Some establishments were in far flung areas and some failed to return questionnaires even with repeated follow-ups.	Requested assistance from inspectors of the LSED during the delivery of forms.				