

REGIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLES SURVEYS: 2006 (Summary)

Problems Encountered

Administrative Concerns

- Lack of material time in the recruitment and selection of PBIs.
- Delayed release of fund (2nd tranche)
- Limited funds

Field Operations

- Some establishments are still hesitant to accomplish the forms
- Respondents from government-owned and controlled corporations such as PAGCOR, NHA and other government-utility corporations have been uncooperative and refuse to participate
- Many of the sample establishments were already reported earlier either permanently closed, cannot be located, non-existence and duplicates in the previous survey (2004).
- Some questionnaires have misspelled names of companies or have the wrong addresses.
- Some PBIs backed out at the middle of survey operation.
- One PBI was caught tampering retrieved questionnaires
- High transportation costs especially in remote areas
- Peace and order situation in remote areas.
- Respondents failed to comply with their commitment to submit the survey forms.

Measures Undertaken by the RO to Solicit Cooperation of Sample Establishments

- Hired the same PBIs, hence are familiar with the establishment personnel covered by the survey
- Massive persuasion through personal visits and telephone calls
- Coordinated with Labor Standards Enforcement personnel for them to inform establishments regarding the conduct of the survey
- Effective orientation of BLES Survey for Enumerators.
- Letter-request from the RO to ensure cooperation of economic zones to give assistance in the implementation of program
- Issue certification of closed establishments identified in the economic zones
- Personal visits of regional supervisors to big establishments
- Validated establishments' addresses before sending enumerators on field to ensure correctness of addresses.
- Coordinated with PEOs for assistance in locating the out of town establishments
- The Regional Director personally made an effort to follow up thru phone to some respondents especially those who have passive attitude
- 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.

Suggestions for Improvement of Survey Implementation

Training of Enumerators and Area Supervisors

- There should be a clear instructions on filling up questionnaires specifically on OWS Part C.
- Training should be well-funded and should be comprehensive for enumerators. New PBIs cannot easily grasp the nature of the job.

Manpower Complement

- BLES to push for the provision of a plantilla position for statistician in our region
- Regional Office should be advised earlier on the conduct of the survey to have ample time to hire competent PBIs
- Need for additional enumerators for fast retrieval of delivered questionnaires
- BLES to review the timetable being set for the conduct of the next survey – too little time allotted for recruitment of PBIs
- Sufficient number of enumerators shall be engaged to meet the target on time

Fund Utilization

- Increase budget allocation for transportation/traveling, supplies, communication services and training expenses
- Interfund transfer should be done only once.
- Provide/Allocate budget for cell card to Regional/Area supervisors considering its necessity and usefulness for the success of the survey.

Field Operations

- Longer survey period should be considered to allow more time on retrieval and editing of survey questionnaires
- An updated list of establishments should be used to avoid spoilage questionnaires.
- Peace and order situation of the area should be considered before including the establishment in the survey
- BLES should provide a uniform token or certificate of appreciation signed by the Secretary himself to be given to valued respondents as a sign of gratitude for their cooperation and support.

Others

- Simple layman's term to be used in the questionnaires (ex. Fortnightly to bi-monthly)
- This feedback mechanism be given a serious consideration to improve program implementation

Note: No report received from Region IV-B.