



Life's greatest 360

Mr. Evidente's road to sustainable livelihood

As a famous saying goes, "You become what you believe," and so it was said that you should dream big, and believe in it. This is what Mr. Antonio Evidente has done with his life, with the help of his son.



Mr. Antonio Evidente

Mr. Antonio Evidente used to earn at least 10,000.00 monthly from his construction job. As his earning is not enough to cover for their expenses, his sons would sometimes tag along to do part-time at the construction site.

"Pinagkakasya ko ang kita ko sa lima kong anak. 'Yung panganay ko at 'yung pangalawa kong anak, minsan sumasama sa akin sa construction," said Mr. Evidente.

It was when his son, Mark Jason, worked as a government intern under the Government Internship Program (GIP) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) that they learned about the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

Mr. Mark Jason Evidente, one of the five children, then applied for DILP assistance for his father, and was granted with eight sacks of rice worth ₱20,000.00 on February 25, 2021.

Mark Jason who is now in charge of the daily operations of the store, said that since he has a degree on Entrepreneurship, it was easier for him to grow the project.

"Ganon na lang po yung pagnanasa ko na mapalago ang business namin. As entrepreneur, iyon naman po dapat ang goal," he added.

After the assistance, Antonio said that it impacted their lives in a huge way. He divulged that the store earns an average gross income of ₱5,000.00 to ₱8,000.00 per day. He was able to grow his business from rice retailing to a sari-sari store, and now with a barber shop that his son manages.

For their daily operations, Antonio would open up the store at 5:00 a.m., then he will turn it over to Mark Jason by 7:00 a.m. until the night.

The growth of their business was not a walk in the park. Since it was given during the height of the pandemic, their customers were not as many as it is now. But, due to their dedication to build up their project, they slowly invested on the expansion of their business from rice retailing to a barber shop.

"Ito na po nagsimula sa walong sako ng bigas hanggang sa sari-sari store tapos lumago na po, at ito mayroon na po extension na barber shop," Mark Jason stated.

According to him, the store, barber shop and rice retailing business earn an average gross sale of ₱120,000.00 monthly, with a net income amounting to ₱80,000.00 to ₱90,000.00.

"Ang estimated po na daily income ay around ₱3,000.00 to ₱4,000.00. 'Pag Sabado o Linggo naman po, kumikita kami ng ₱6,000.00 to ₱8,000.00 kasi nagbabayad na po ang mga may utang," he added.



Kuya Tony's Sari-sari Store



Mark Jason Evidente



Mark Jason runs the barber shop that sprung out of the DOLE assistance provided to his father.



He said, “Nagsimula po ang barber shop noong nagbabantay po ako, may nagpupunta po sa akin para magpagupit. Sinabi ko kay Papa na magpatayo na lang kami ng barber shop para may space.”

Mark Jason earns at least ₱500.00 to ₱700.00 daily, and an estimated income of at least ₱11,000.00 to ₱12,000.00 monthly at the barber shop.

“Lahat ng pangangailangan sa bahay ay dito na po namin kinukuha, pati na rin po para sa pag-aaral ng aking mga kapatid,” added Mark Jason.

Moreover, Antonio already bought appliances for his business and his house like a refrigerator, washing machine, and a motorcycle.

He also plans to expand their business by growing the sari-sari store into a mini grocery, and opening an upholstery shop. Mark Jason stated that he wanted to avail of different trainings like simple bookkeeping and accounting, or entrepreneurship, among others.



“Dahil dito, naramdaman po namin ni Papa na hindi po habang buhay kami magiging construction workers. Sabi ko, bibigyan ko ito ng importansya para makita ng DOLE na hindi sayang ang tulong na ibinigay sa amin,” Mark Jason said.

Antonio, on the other hand, said that because of the assistance, he does not have to strain himself in working at the construction site. “Maraming salamat po sa DOLE. Sana marami pa ang mabigyan ng assistance, at maging successful pa,” he added.

Ms. Fe Norma Valuis, Provincial Head of Eastern Samar said that they consider Mr. Evidente’s project a success because of self reliance.

“The project has the ability to expand. Marami na siyang naipundar at na-augment ang kaniyang family income. Kung mayroong pangarap, kung sasamahan ng gawa, walang impossible. Sabi nga, plans with actions will become a realization. Nandito lang ang DOLE para sumuporta,” she added.

Mr. Bryan Arago, Provincial Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manager of Eastern Samar, said that whenever a problem arises in the course of Mr. Evidente’s business, he can immediately seek the assistance of the PESO of Eastern Samar through its municipal coordinator.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairperson: **Director Ma. Karina Perida-Trayvilla**

Editor-in-Chief: **Nilda C. Dominguez**

Managing Editor: **Elisa A. Cruz**

Content: **Maria Geneva R. Bassig**

Design: **Maria Geneva R. Bassig**

Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns

 DOLE Annex Building, Cabildo Street corner

Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila

 8527-3000 loc. 313

 bwsc@dole.gov.ph

 www.bwsc.dole.gov.ph

 <http://www.facebook.com/bwsc.dole>

