

CSC, PASUC give education benefits to gov't employees' families

Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chair Ricardo Saludo and Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Dr. Lauro Tacbas signed recently a Memorandum of Agreement to secure education benefits for families of government personnel who died or were killed in the line of duty.

During the simple MOA signing ceremony held August 1 at the CSC Centennial Room, Chair Saludo cited awardees under the CSC Honor Awards Programs, among them Atty. Nestor Ballacillo, a state prosecutor who handled such controversial cases as the validity of holding jai-alai games without franchise and the Meralco refund to consumers and was killed by hired gunmen in broad daylight, and Forester Roderick Macaso of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who was also killed during his pursuit of illegal loggers. "They are heroes worthy of commendation," Chair Saludo said.

PASUC President Tacbas expressed that he is pleased to be a partner of the CSC in such a noble endeavor. "Our aim as Filipinos is to gain higher education as much as possible," he said. "Knowing that it would be very hard for the children of those who perished while in line of duty to continue or push through their education, this is really a very timely and significant event for them."

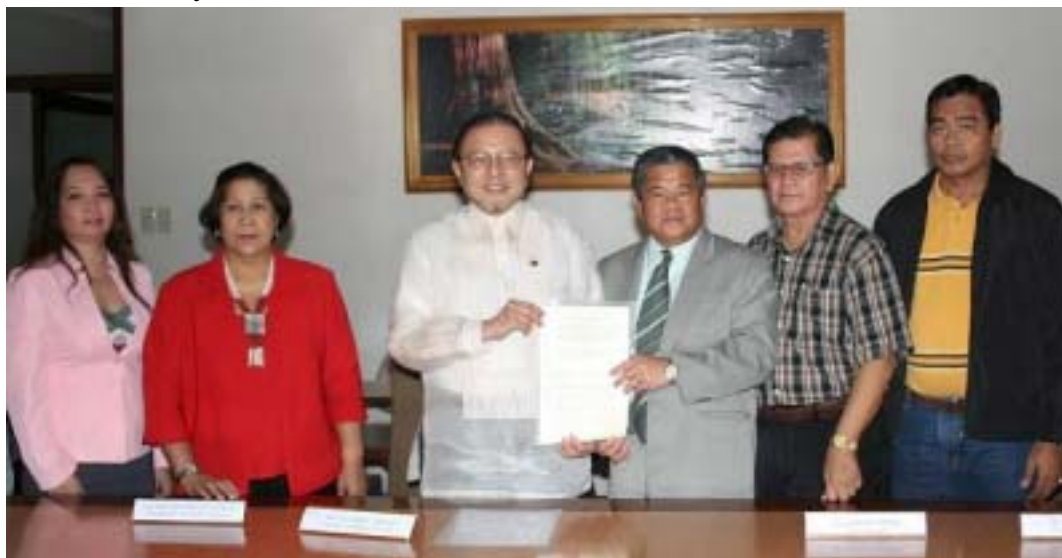
Tacbas also mentioned that a similar MOA exists between PASUC and the Department of National Defense (DND) which covers only soldiers and uniformed

men. This new MOA, he says, will be more comprehensive and will include all public servants.

Saludo meanwhile mentioned the first project he undertook as CSC Chair, the endowment fund for families of public servants who died in the line of duty. Currently, the fund has received pledges amounting to over half a million, P100,000.00 coming from Vice President Noli de Castro, P100,000.00 as personal contribution of the CSC Chair and various amounts from guests at his oath-taking ceremony where the project was launched. "Many unsung public servants die in the service," he stated. "While they are now gone, we must let their families feel the immense gratitude of our nation."

The project was coursed through Presidential Assistant for Education Dr. Mona Valisno.

Implementing rules and regulations of the said agreement are expected to be out within August, Saludo said. The scholarship will be applicable to both graduate and undergraduate studies. •



Chair Saludo (3rd to the left) and PASUC President Dr. Lauro Tacbas hold up the freshly signed MOA which launched the project Pamanang Lingkod-Bayan Iskolarsyip. They are flanked by Public Assistance and Information Office Director Maria Luisa Salonga-Agamata, Commissioner Mary Ann Z. Fernandez-Mendoza, and PASUC officials.