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PRESS RELEASE

ILO and Disnaker Emergency Employment Service in Banda Aceh Registers and Places Jobs for Thousands

BANDA ACEH (Joint Press Release): The Provincial Department of Manpower of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam in Banda Aceh (Disnaker NAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) today provided an update on progress made at the Employment Service for the People of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province (ESPNAD). The ESPNAD commenced its operations on Monday, 7 February 2005, to facilitate access to jobs for those who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the earthquake and Tsunami disaster.

During the first week of its operation, the ESPNAD registered 2,289 skilled people from all over the province for permanent placement and 580 people for cash for work programmes. To date, 100 people have been placed in cash for work programmes.

According to Freddie Rousseau, ILO's Chief Technical Advisor of the ESPNAD, the biggest challenge is to codify all registration forms and to compile a computerised database. This process is currently under way utilising casual workers from Aceh. "Around 2,000 forms will be captured by Thursday, 17 February, and the first preliminary labour market assessment will be presented to the Deputy Governor on Saturday, 19 February, by Disnaker," explained Rousseau.

Based on information in the database, the Centre is expected to be able to analyse labour market trends and identify any shortages in the labour market. In order to overcome labour shortages or address specific needs in the market, the Centre is going to run a range of short two to three week introductory/basic skills courses at the Vocational Training Centre of Banda Aceh (BLK).

Rousseau then added that one of the needs identified so far is a lack of people with basic English speaking skills for the IT, office tasks and drivers fields. Starting from next week, three week long basic conversational English classes will commence for people who have registered with ESPNAD to enhance their employability.

Located at the BLK, the ESPNAD is initially funded by Disnaker, ILO's financial resources and a contribution of UNDP, as well as functions with ILO technical expertise. The main purpose of the Centre is to create and maintain a database of skilled people living in the Province of NAD in need of employment. To build up the database, the ESPNAD has placed advertisements in newspapers, all the camps as well as general gathering places to invite selected skills groups to come to the centre and register.

During the registration process the level of proficiency of applicants will be tested using the facilities of the BLK to ensure that work-seekers recommended to potential employers have the required skills. This process commenced on Wednesday, 9 February 2005, when people from the various building trades such as carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, glazers, tilers, painters, etc. were invited to come and register. This was followed by registration of the mechanical trades, secretarial staff, senior programme officers, translators, etc.

Meanwhile, in terms of income generation and self-employment, the ILO's Youth Employment Programme has delivered its first Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for NGOs wishing to utilise the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme in their community support work. Starting on 14 February at the BLK, around 16 participants from as far afield as Simeulue and Lhokseumawe are participating in the workshop presented by Peter Piawu, an SIYB Master Trainer from Papua New Guinea. Due to big demand, a second ToT is being arranged to begin in March 2005.

Furthermore, starting next Monday, 21 February, an SYB ToT workshop for technical and vocational teachers from SMKs and the BLK in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar will commence at SMK 3. Two SYB Lead Trainers from the Ministry of National Education will conduct the training.

“So the new Employment Service, as the collaboration between the Government of Indonesia and the ILO, is already providing lots of new training and livelihood opportunities for the people of Aceh,” according to Rousseau.

For further information, contact:

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