



MDGIF
MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

LABOUR MARKET-RESPONSIVE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

Province of Maguindanao

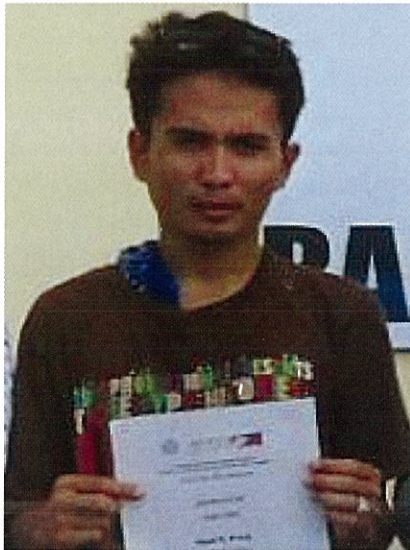
I CAN AND I WILL

"Great things come in good and bad ways..."

(Success Story of a Youth Entrepreneur)

by

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
– Autonomous Region in Muslim
Mindanao (TESDA-ARMM)



"Things will work out fine..."

"The world is round" has been a cliché since time immemorial but we seldom realize its truth unless we experience it ourselves. Nasef is just one of the many who could say that this cliché applies in real life. At a very young age, Nasef has had to overcome great challenges. He was just 11 when his father was killed because of his political affiliations. Four years after, his mother succumbed to a disease as much as to the depression of losing her husband.

Nasef A. Prang, a 19 year old boy, didn't just give up on life's challenges though. When the opportunity arose to develop his skills through the entrepreneurship programme offered by TESDA-ARMM, he grabbed it. And it was such a great opportunity because Nasef, his family struggling financially, would never be able to attain a college degree unless he earned for himself.

When Nasef's parents died, he was adopted by his mother's sister while his relatives on his father's side took in his siblings. His aunt provided for him as much as she could and with her help he managed to graduate in high school last 2009. His aunt couldn't afford for a college degree anymore though. And with no skills to land any mid-level job, Nasef too had no means of earning for his education.

A window of opportunity opened in 2011 when TESDA-ARMM launched the programme on Labour Market-Responsive Entrepreneurship Training in the province of Maguindanao. It was a joint programme with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs



for Filipino Youth meant to empower youths who were struggling just like Nasef. Aside from the entrepreneurship training, the programme also granted its graduates who had feasible business plans with a Php 15,000 peso start-up capital for selected microenterprises. A determined Nasef was one of the chosen graduates to be granted the provision.

There were various choices for a microenterprise and Nasef chose gasolineretailing. While there were a few who failed to sustain their microenterprise, Nasef on the other hand thrived after a month. With the opportunity given to him, he expanded his mini-gasoline-retailing to buying and selling of agricultural products like grain. Nasef must have had an innate businessman in him because he made sure he wouldn't be dependent on one kind of grain only. His goods vary depending on the seasonal harvest of farmers.

Aside from his buy and sell of grains, Nasef saw another potential business enterprise, fertilizer lending. Farmers around their area, just like the many farmers around the country, are dependent on their harvest for their income. So they depend on business entities to lend them their needs months before their harvest time. A drawback to this new venture though is that most of Nasef's creditors are his relatives and most of the time he finds it hard to pressure them in paying up since they too have had it hard in life.

Many of us dream to be successful someday but success is a subjective point of view. And for a boy with Nassef's experience, success comes in simple ways. He only dreams for his siblings to attain good educational background, a college degree if possible. He also wishes to have his own family and live comfortably with them someday. But his short range dreams are more based on expanding his business enterprise. If he could save enough and pay back his capital, he would buy his own mini truck to aid in his

buy and sell microenterprise. With the rate he is going these days, Nasef is surely climbing the steps to success. He has even managed to lend his aunt the capital to start her own variety store.

"Things will be ok," was Nasef's simple lines when he was facing life's greatest challenge. "Things will be ok," is Nasef's line until now when he is facing life's promises for a better future for him and his family.

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