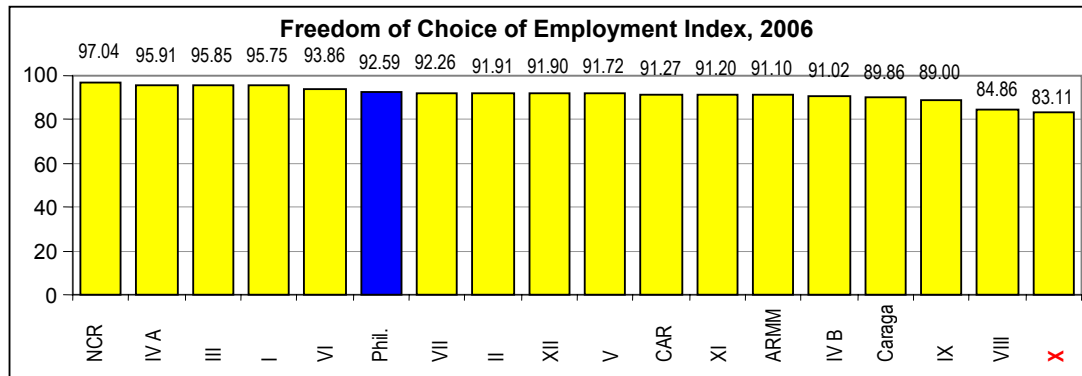




Did you know that...

Region X Ranked Least in the Freedom of Choice of Employment Index



The Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES), through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) 10, conducted an advocacy on Decent Work, 2006 Philippine Labor Index and disseminated the results of the 2006 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) and the 2006 Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) last November 12 at the Deluxe Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. Based on the disseminated results of the Philippine Labor Index and its component indicators, Northern Mindanao showed a laid-back situation as it ranked least in the Freedom of Choice of Employment Index among the regions in the country. Moreover, it also ranked 4th and 5th from the least in terms of Productive Work Index and Equity in Work Index, respectively.

The Freedom of Choice of Employment Index is a component index of the Philippine Labor Index. It considers two (2) component indicators, namely, the economic activity rate of children 10–14 years old and the school attendance rate of children 10 –14 years old. What is considerably visible is that, compared to the national average of 7.35%, the rate of economic activity of children (10–14 years old) of Northern Mindanao is thrice as much at 23.73%. If there is such a considerable economic activity for such an age group, wouldn't there be a compromise in a different aspect of their development?

As can be expected, participation rates of region 10, for both primary and secondary education, have declined in the last three years. The public school primary education participation rates have declined from 88.54% in school year (SY) 2004-2005, to 85.77% in SY 2005-2006, and further down to 74.48% in SY 2006-2007. Integrating the enrollment in private schools into the equation, the participation rates would be 93.16%, 90.28% and 78.45% for the school years 04-05, 05-06 and 06-07 respectively. Moreover, secondary education participation rates have also declined. Secondary public schools registered participation rates of 47.75%, 47.32% and 37.27% for the school years 04-05, 05-06 and 06-07 respectively. Integrating private school enrollment, this would convert to 64.66%, 63.33% and 49.55%. Could this mean that more children in the region are compromising education to earn a living? For whatever its worth, however, such statement is but an assumption.

Many believe that the youth is the hope of the nation and that quality education is the key to their development. Yet, basing on the above-cited statistics/facts, we could assume what their future will be given the present situation.

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Source of Data: BLES-HOD, DEPED