



*AteneoFactCheck 2013
Third Brief*

Fact Check: Jobs and Employment

Claim: Only a few senatorial candidates have a comprehensive platform that addresses lack of jobs and unemployment.

Fact Checked:

Despite trumpeted economic gains, and getting good investment grade status from international credit rating agencies, the Philippines' unemployment and underemployment remains to be high. According to the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office (NSO), there are about 10.828 million Filipinos of working age (age 15 years old and above) who are either jobless or who would want to work more hours to earn more.

LFS revealed that the increase is due to the number of underemployed rising to 7.93 Million in January 2013 from the 7.02 Million in January 2012. The underemployment rate rose to 20.9 percent from 18.8 percent. Unemployment, on the other hand, has not significantly changed. The unemployment rate is estimated at 7.1 percent in January 2013 compared the 7.2 percent last year.

The figures above reveal that economic growth did not translate to more jobs and employment. Job creation is an important issue because "several social problems have been a direct or indirect aftermath of prolonged employment and unemployment of most Filipinos." Much worse, this puts millions of Filipinos into the poverty trap.

It is therefore relevant to see that senatorial candidates do not only make superficial promises but that they carry clear, concrete, and comprehensive platform on creating "decent, good quality" jobs and employment.

Among the top 20 senatorial candidates in the Social Weather Station (SWS) senatorial survey released last April – Team PNoy's Alan Peter Cayetano and Cythia Villar, and UNA's JV Ejercito and Migs Zubiri, have job generation and addressing employment issues as amongst if not the central focus of their platforms. Common sentiments are to increase infrastructure spending, empower Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs), strengthen the support to the agricultural sector, and make education responsive to market demands.



Except for Nancy Binay, the rest have either a platform or a track record that indicates their commitment to job creation.

Meanwhile, most of the senatorial candidates have not made any pronouncements to the said “jobless growth” confronting the Aquino administration, apart from UNA’s candidates JV Ejercito, Nancy Binay, Gregorio Honasan, Ernesto Maceda, and Mitos Magsaysay who criticized the administration for “touting the fast economic growth our country has been experiencing but while failing to address that the benefits do not trickle down to the poor.” Team PNoy’s Alan Peter Cayetano and Risa Hontiveros answered these criticisms by saying that “trickle-down effect takes time, and that growth now gives us the momentum to solve poverty crisis.”

Sources:

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