



MIGRANT ACTION TRUST

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Newsletter

Migrant Action Trust (MAT)

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Issue 7

Minister Tariana Turia visits Migrant Action Trust on International Volunteers Day. Full Story – see page 2

NZ Somali Women Micro-enterprise Opportunity

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Fadumo Ahmed (right) with one of the sewing students

Fadumo Ahmed, Chairperson of NZ Somali Womens Inc. and her group received funding to run a sewing school for refugee women thanks to Fadumo's perseverance and hard work. The school which started in 2007 has obtained 13 sewing machines, rent for a space and subsidy to hire a tutor and other expenses through funding. This sewing school which is located at 152 Stoddard Road, Mt Roskill, is open to all

ethnicities. Many women from Pakistan, Iraq, Burma, Africa, Arab and Ethiopia

have been students of this school.

Recently, an opportunity to create bags from billboard materials was offered to this group. The offer prompted for a micro-enterprise plan to be developed. This is currently being developed with assistance from Eva Lawrence of Auckland City Council and Agnes Granada of Migrant Action Trust. The Methodist Employment Generation Fund has donated the cost of developing the plan.

This may be the start of a potentially feasible micro-enterprise and if it succeeds, it will offer opportunity for the refugee women, a marginalized group in our society to achieve the following:

- Transform their lives after going through significant challenges in their new county
- Lead into a life of self-sufficiency and independence as many are on long-term benefits currently
- Affect and inspire other women of similar background to up-skill themselves and embark on income generating projects
- Provide a role model for young members of their individual families - maybe an indirect way of minimizing generational dependence on government benefits



Minister Tariana Turia visits Migrant Action Trust on International Volunteers Day.



From left: Dr Jackie Blue, Minister Tariana Turia, Asoka Basnayake and Agnes Granada

I will come back', were Minister Tariana Turia's parting words on the day of her visit to Migrant Action Trust on the 5th Dec 2008 to commemorate the International Volunteers Day.

Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Tariana Turia, is encouraging New Zealanders to recognise the contributions of those who do a world of good in

our communities

"Of course, we don't need to wait till International Volunteer Day to thank the thousands of individuals and organisations that hold our communities together" said Minister Turia.

Minister Turia, along with National List MP for Mt Roskill Dr. Jackie Blue spent sometime with

MAT staff and MAT Deputy Chair Asoka Basnayake listening to needs-based services of MAT and some issues faced by migrants and refugees.

It's encouraging to witness Minister Turia reaching out to the front-line workers in the migrant community and voluntary sector.

Diverse Ethnicities benefit from Employment Support Group



Employment Support Group Glenfield—Oct to Dec 2008 Batch

The Oct/Dec 2008 group of MAT's Employment Support Group at Glenfield and Henderson validates that New Zealand has really entered an era of diverse culture. Chinese, Japanese, Peruvian, Russian, Samoan, South African, Chilean and Filipino were the nationalities of the most recent participants of the Employment Support Group. Migrants from Portugal, England, Argentina, Uruguay, Czech Republic, Burundi, Nigeria

and Nepal were recent visitors to MAT's office for participating in CV Clinics and other employment related activities. They may belong to different cultures but clearly have the same need, Job!! Job!! Job!!

A meaningful job is still the top priority for migrants in order to integrate to NZ. English is still a barrier to jobs. Other barriers to getting meaningful employment include:

Using the same job hunting techniques from home countries in New Zealand

and Nepal were recent visitors to MAT's office for participating in CV Clinics and

which prevents them from getting jobs i.e. long CVs

A passive rather than pro-active approach in jobsearching

Not tapping into the hidden job market

Lack of networking skills to get into the hidden job market

Insist only on one type of jobsearch methods yet there are about 6 or more

Lack of understanding how it's done in a New Zealand context

There is certainly a need for on-going support for migrants and refugees in their search for jobs - the most important aspect of their successful integration.

Employment Support Group Contact:

Olga at bernsteinz@ihug.co.nz
Henderson

Karen at karen_venter1@hotmail.com
for Glenfield

MAT's Front Line Staff



*Karen Venter—Facilitator
Employment Support Group*



*Olga Bernstein—Facilitator
Employment Support Group*



*Agnes Granada
Coordinator*



*Honey Rasalan
Project/Funding Officer*

Volunteer 's Testimony

Jay Abaya

What I have now is a fruit of MAT's vision and mission of reaching out to new migrants who don't have a clue of kiwi style job search. I thank MAT for unconditionally helping me at a time when I needed help, having gone through 8 months of failures, sleepless nights and utter loneliness. I sent masses of CVs and revised it many times. These resulted in few interviews but didn't land me a job, perhaps, I didn't demonstrate confidence.

Through Auckland Pinoy Yahoo Group, I chanced upon Migrant Action Trust and took the opportunity to offer myself as a volunteer for the organization. It was interesting to note that in MAT, they not only give you something to do but also coach you as well in job hunting. It was during this time I discovered that my job application was not targeted and it was not designed to catch the interest of the employer.

A management accountant vacancy was electronically circulated by another MAT volunteer Gina Ingua and it was to them that I first wrote a targeted CV and a cover letter. It worked for me. After several interviews, again with guidance from MAT on how to attend them, I was hired as a management accountant of an exporting company based in Avondale.

The lesson I learned from my 8 months ordeal was never do your job search on your own. Build your network so you have a way of comparison as well as support. Tap into voluntary work for it may provide a bridge to your meaningful employment.

Targeted CV = the job you want

Bimba Liyanage

Her experience in Srilanka was teaching though she worked on-call as a hairdresser specializing in bridal dressing. Hairdressing instead of teaching was the career she wanted to pursue in New Zealand. With advice from Migrant Action Trust, her job application was prepared targeting a Hairdresser's role - no mention of the teaching experience since it was irrelevant to the role she wanted.

Bimba Liyanage diligently attended MAT's Jobsearch Support at Onehunga Library this year. She is now working as Hairdresser in one of the hair saloon in Sylvia Park since April 2008.

Notices

Jobsearch Support at Libraries re-starting in February 2009:

Onehunga Library—every Wednesday 10 to 12 am starting 4 Feb 2009

Glenfield Library—every Wednesday 1:30 to 3:30 pm starting 4 Feb 2009

Avondale Library—every Friday 1 to 3 pm starting 13 Feb 2009

'Jobsearching in Tough Times' Workshop- 1 to 5 pm, 24 Jan 2009. [email info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz](mailto:info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz)

Donation

Be part of Migrant Action Trust that is shaping progress. Make a difference in migrant and refugee community through your financial support.

Set up an auto-payment at ASB Bank 12-3077-0509589-00 or make a one-off donation. Thank you.

Migrant Action Trust is a registered charity. You can claim 1/3 of your donation as rebate.

That's the Pinoys (slang for Filipinos), who formed themselves into a 20th century cyber organization. This group come together for a get-together 4 to 5 times a year. Special meetings are held as the need arise. It is an unconventional organization where there is an absence of formal leadership, structure, funds, by-laws and guidelines. Guidelines are set through intuition and common sense and this is usually managed by a moderator.

The group started in March 2005. It was inspired by a New Zealand dream, when 10 Filipinos, still in the Philippines, who were aspiring to immigrate to New Zealand joined an e-group called emigratenz.org. The e-group had British members but they were open to other nationalities. In the end those Filipino decided to form their own e-group to discuss and interpret immigration policies and share their experiences. The e-group today managed tirelessly by Ramon Illana is called pinoyz2NZ and can be found in [http://](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pinoyz2NZ/)



Ramon Illana

groups.yahoo.com/group/pinoyz2NZ/

Today it has over 2,300 members from the Philippines and from New Zealand and has grown rapidly from 10 members. Those in New Zealand share their experiences and pass information to would-be migrants who are still in the Philippines. Posting of immigration questions and job vacancies are prevalent in the e-forum. Many Filipinos have sorted their immigration issues without the aid of an immigration consultant or found jobs, simply by reading the

postings in the e-forum. Other immigration problems have been prevented just by keeping up with the postings in this e-forum.

The Pinoys didn't stop there. As they settled and integrated in New Zealand mainstream society, more experiences and information need to be shared to compatriots and another yahoo group was formed called Auckland Pinoy in Feb 2006 by Beah Ulama, Karlo Jaminola, Jun Dolon, Ervin Llacuna, Jinkee Say and Ka Uro. The group can be found in [http://](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/)

Migrant Action Trust, Auckland Regional Migrant Services and Migrant North Shore Services could have coped with Filipino migrants who arrived in droves under the work-to-residence policy since 2005.



Pinoy Social Workers

Carlo Jaminola

Beah Ulama



Jun Dolon



Ervin Llacuna



Jinkee Say



Ka Uro

AKLnzPINOYS/

Having heard of the benefits of the e-forum, more yahoo groups were formed such as **Christchurch Pinoys, Pinoy Social Workers, Wellington Pinoys, Migrante, UP Alumni and Katilingban Bisaya of New Zealand (a Cebuano speaking Filipino organization).**

Without these yahoo groups, we wonder how NGOs working in the migrant settlement area such as



Katilingban Bisaya of New Zealand