

## Michell's New Job



**At the age of 25, Michell Lanza** has spent much of his adult life working to help support his family's needs. Prior to Typhoon Haiyan, Michell worked in Manila in a variety of positions including utility maintenance, factory worker, and assembler. Wanting to gain more steady employment, Michell returned to his family's home in Barangay San Antonio, MacArthur to take an exam to

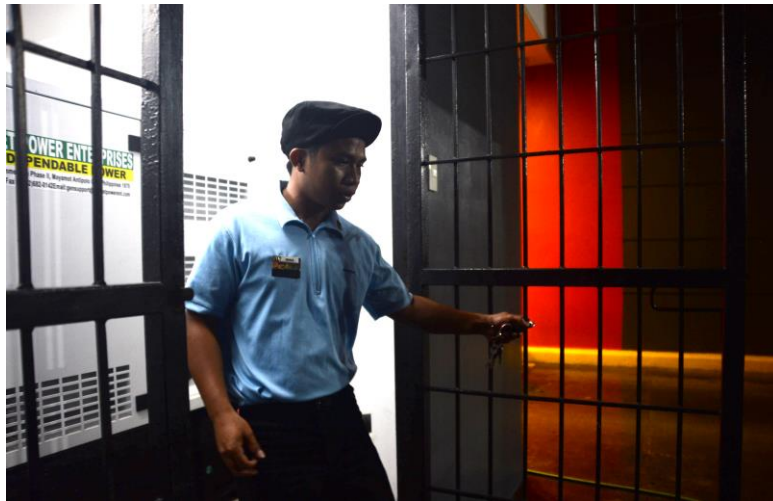
be a soldier. Although he did not pass the exam, Michell refused to give up, joining the military as a volunteer. As a volunteer, Michell received allowances for his services but the amount of money he received was not enough to meet the needs of him and his family.

Michell lives in Barangay San Antonio with his six siblings and parents. Prior to Typhoon Haiyan, Michell's parents relied on the production of copra as their main source of income. Copra, or coconut meal, is produced by harvesting coconuts and then scraping and drying the coconut meat. The resulting copra is then sold to dealers to be pressed into coconut oil. The high wind speeds of Typhoon Yolanda however were enough to blow over the majority of coconut trees, leaving Michell's parents financially unsecured.

Amidst the the Typhoon Haiyan Recovery Operation of the Philippine Red Cross, Michell and his family were chosen as beneficiaries for Shelter and Livelihood programs receiving CGI sheets and cash grants for house repair through the Shelter Retrofitting Assistance (SRA) program and receiving grants for tuition payment through the Skills Training and Enterprise Development (STED) program.

Under the STED program, Michell was able to take a course on Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM). At first, he wanted to take the course so that he could fix electrical connections from his family's home that were damaged by the storm however as the program progressed he realized his newly acquired skills could help him make money.

Following his graduation ceremony, Michell attended a job fair sponsored by the Red Cross and the Department of Labor where Michell was hired on the spot to become a part of the maintenance team of a local fastfood chain.



“When I was hired, they trained me on other areas to become an all around maintenance personnel. I do everything from aircon troubleshooting down to plumbing. There are four of us in the team and I was the one who trained the other three members”, says Michell proudly.

His salary has allowed him to provide some of the needs of his family as his parents are still unable to find full-time work and has taken full responsibility for paying the school fees of his two siblings.

“I admit, my job before in Manila paid more than what I get here. But it is only now with my current job that I am actually able to give money to my parents and also spend some for my siblings”, says Michell.

Michell further added that he enjoys his work and is able to reduce his food costs as his workplace provides food during his shift. Besides being able to practice what he has learned during his skills training, he is also able to learn new things from his workplace which is an advantage as he goes on with his career.

“I want to master the work I do here. I plan on going back to Manila after I finish financing for some repairs of our house. My experiences here will help me find a better job when I get there”, says Michell.

Michell Lanza is just one of 234 individuals that have completed the STED program to-date and one of the 3,462 households that received support on the SRA program through the Philippine Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan Operation.