In a rapidly changing and growing world, there are still not enough decent jobs available. The economies of most countries are not growing. So the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDS) gives us a thorough framework that covers a range of aspects for society development. So I choose goal 8 out of the 17 SDS because in my opinion goal 8 will have a huge impact on our country the Philippines. Goal 8. So what is Goal 8 of the 17 SDGs? According to (United Nations) it promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. "Decent Work and Economic Growth" presents a contentious issue that produces various views about its consequences for the people of the Philippines and the country at large. This paper aims to clarify the complex discussion around Goal 8, examining its effects on Filipinos' lives and the country's overall course. This position paper's goals are to persuasively explain the reasoning behind the stance taken in addition to providing a well-researched viewpoint on the widely discussed topic. **The paper claims that, given the complexity of Goal 8, a nuanced and balanced approach is essential, which takes into account the particular socioeconomic conditions of the Philippines and guarantees that the pursuit of decent work and economic growth is genuinely advantageous and long-lasting for all.**

In recent years, jobs are increasing but most new jobs are available in the Philippines, sadly the skills needed for those jobs are still underdeveloped in the Philippines, and there are still gaps in the knowledge of people. A policy note by Quismorio, Pasquin, and Tayo(2020) says that there is a need for data science professionals in the Philippines, however, a workforce skill gap exists. The issues in our country are still in motion most colleges and schools are not teaching the right skills for these people to succeed and have jobs. According to the Philippine Star. (2017, October 5) Only one out of three college graduates is employable, this means 65% of the graduates don’t have the right skills for the jobs they are applying for. So what does history say? The Philippines' economy has had a lot of ups and downs, during the 80s the Philippines took a massive hit. According to Mongabay (2013), The declining global market for Philippine exports, difficulties obtaining loans on the foreign capital market, and a domestic financial scandal all contributed to the economy's downturn. The country’s economy has risen but still had some hiccups in some years but not a year that has over -10% in our GDP. We need the Philippines to stay on this path of going in an upward trajectory as of 2024 our GDP has already risen by .2% from 6% to 6.2%, and goal 8 of the 17 SDG goals mission promotes decent work and economic growth. It is a win for all because this promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, this means that even though economic growth is rising a little bit at a time the goal that goal 8 is promoting is how can countries like the Philippines sustain this rising economy because history tells that the Philippines is rising in one year then suddenly the next year it takes a dip.

As of 2022, the goal has already made some progress. Goal 8 has already been put on a landscape from 2015 to 2030. There are targets that the country needs to reach. The Philippines' attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) is important, as seen by the yearly GDP per capita, which increased from 4.6 in 2015 to 6.2 in 2022 and is expected to reach 6.0 by 2030. Notwithstanding successes, difficulties still exist, as seen by the decline in the yearly GDP per employed person from 3.6 in 2015 to 1.0 in 2022, which calls for a calculated strategy to strike a balance between job possibilities and economic growth. The number of self-employed and unpaid family workers fell from 37.6 in 2015 to 35.6 in 2022, indicating progress in formalizing labor arrangements. However there are still gaps to be filled in terms of achieving full and productive employment (8.5.2) and youth unemployment (8.6.1). There have been notable advances in occupational safety and health, with the incidence rate of both fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries falling from 0.03 in 2015 to 0.02 in 2019. Goals for financial inclusion (8.10) and sustainable tourism (8.9) show encouraging growth and highlight the contributions of a variety of economic sectors. The necessity of infrastructure and financial access, as well as the significance of a worldwide strategy for young employment (8.b), highlight the need for cooperation across the public, corporate, and civil society sectors. The Philippines requires a comprehensive and flexible approach to manage changing economic dynamics and achieve SDG 8 plans by 2030 because of the country's volatile landscape. To further prove my position. According to Camilon Jr., (2018) Since 2015, the Philippines has achieved a commendable annual economic growth rate of 6 percent, marking it as one of Asia's fastest-growing economies.

I would like to further explain why I chose goal 8. The 8th goal of the  Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nations is to promote decent work conditions, employment, and economic growth. To achieve this, the Philippines must work to lower unemployment, enhance the quality of jobs available, and promote long-term economic growth in industries like manufacturing and agriculture. Goal 8 also emphasizes the need for social protection measures, stressing the necessity of policies that assist populations that are vulnerable during difficult times. The goal additionally highlights how important it is to have respectable working conditions, and fair pay, and to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. Goal 8 recognizes the critical role that remittances play in the Philippine economy and advocates for safe working conditions for migrant workers, which indirectly addresses migration given the sizeable number of Filipinos employed abroad. Collaboration amongst parties and the implementation of appropriate policies are essential for its success. In general, achieving Goal 8 could improve the lives of Filipinos and advance social and economic advancement.

If goal 8 succeeds in its plan in the Philippines, it will have a tremendous impact on the country. If the country creates better jobs for young people post-pandemic, emphasizing concerns about job quality for the youth. It suggests modernizing labor rules, managing migration, and investing in green and digital sectors (World Bank, 2023), before the COVID-19 epidemic, the Philippines' economy grew at an average pace of more than 6%, which accelerated the creation of profitable jobs and raised real earnings, ultimately reducing poverty. However, some of these improvements were undone by the pandemic, which led to an increase in low-paying occupations and a decrease in high-productivity employment. Even while the economy has recovered, worries about the quality of jobs remain, particularly for young people, even though employment statistics have returned to levels seen before the pandemic. The Philippines has achieved its strongest economic growth in over 40 years, with a 7.2% growth rate in Q4 2022, surpassing expectations, and a full-year GDP increase of 7.6% (FT, 2023). Having decent enough jobs goes hand in hand in increasing the economy. Economic growth is also reliant on having decent employment. They increase personal revenue, which raises the value of money and boosts the economy. This in turn helps with the decrease of poverty by offering steady work and competitive pay. A more stable and healthy workforce is fostered by decent jobs, which also improve working conditions and benefits and raise the standard of living. A motivated workforce also stimulates economic growth by directing resources into housing, education, and other areas. Sufficient job prospects mitigate social problems associated with joblessness, guaranteeing social equilibrium. Increased tax revenues from higher incomes allow governments to fund infrastructure and public services. Strong employment markets promote innovation and entrepreneurship, which boosts the competitiveness and diversity of the economy. Additionally, well-paying jobs require skill development, which improves a nation's human capital for sustained economic prosperity. In summary, an adequate number of good jobs generates a positive feedback loop that benefits people, lowers poverty, promotes growth, and enhances society's well-being in general. The Philippines is projected to become the 24th most powerful economy by 2030 and 19th by 2050, surpassing Malaysia and Vietnam, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers (Sunnexdesk, 2017). If we continue on this trajectory by 2030 the SDG believes that by 2030 at least half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty will be reduced. In the future If we continue to progress, our country will truly look and feel different because there will almost be no more poverty due to the availability of more decent jobs, and the country will have more money to spend to develop the country. Our country will bring more domestic investments, the minimum wage will increase, and generally, the standard of living will change too. This might be a long shot but according to some if the Philippine plans and goals are done by around 2050 the country will become a 1st world nation. This might still be very far from now but this shows us, what our country can reach if our plans and goals pull through. According to the Palafox outlined roadmap, the Philippines is targeting middle-income status by 2028, addressing challenges by 2030, and aspiring to be a top 20 global economy by 2050 (Palafox, 2023).

In conclusion, my position on this topic highlights the crucial significance of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) in the context of the Philippines, emphasizing the necessity of full and productive employment, consistent, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, and decent work for all. The study examines several aspects of Goal 8, illuminating its complex nature and consequences for the Filipino people and the nation's future. The paper highlighting the continued difficulties in the Philippines, where employment opportunities have expanded but there is a worrying shortage of skills required for them. Due to the education system's failure to provide graduates with desirable abilities, a significant percentage of the labor force is unemployed. The historical background shows how vulnerable the Philippine economy is to outside influences, which calls for an in-depth study of sustainable solutions. I believe that The position paper effectively makes the case that Goal 8 is about more than just achieving economic growth; it's also about making sure that growth is fair and helpful to all aspects of society. The GDP per capita has increased, indicating the progress accomplished in recent years. It also critically looks at issues including young unemployment, gaps in reaching full and productive employment, and the fall in GDP per employed person. It highlights how vital it is to manage the changing economic environment with a complex and adaptable strategy. The paper highlights the need for partnerships between sectors to solve issues including facilities financial access, and international initiatives for youth employment while also acknowledging the advancements made in occupational safety, financial inclusion, and environmentally friendly tourism. The position paper's following section explores the rationale behind selecting Goal 8 and the potential effects on the Philippines if it is successful. It emphasizes the necessity of promoting long-term economic growth, improving job quality, and reducing unemployment. The focus of Goal 8 on social protection programs, respectable working conditions, equitable compensation, and encouragement of innovation is in line with the overarching objectives of enhancing the well-being of Filipinos and propelling social and economic progress. In the time that Goal 8 is accomplished in the Philippines, it presents a positive future and shows the possibility of job creation, particularly for the post-pandemic youth. It makes the connection between economic expansion and respectable employment, contending that steady, well-paying work lowers poverty and promotes social cohesion as well as general economic progress. The position paper concludes with an outlook that looks ahead, imagining a changed Philippines by 2030 and beyond. Discussed is the audacious objective of ranking among the world's top 20 economies by 2050, with an emphasis on the expert-outlined road map. The report makes the case that the nation might make impressive strides toward lowering poverty, luring in foreign capital, and raising living standards if the plans and objectives are successfully carried out.  For last statements, The position paper on Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which combines historical background, present difficulties, and future goals for the Philippines, essentially makes an in-depth and well-reasoned case. It promotes an informed and balanced strategy, highlighting the connections between job creation, economic progress, and societal well-being. The conclusion's vision gives hope for the Philippines' ability to overcome obstacles and become a vibrant, wealthy country in the years to come.