

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 01  
Series of 2003

WHEREAS, the Hong Kong SAR Government approved on 26 February 2003 the reduction in the minimum wage for foreign domestic workers by HK\$400 per month for employment contracts signed on or after 1 April 2003;

WHEREAS, prior to such pronouncement Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sent a personal plea to HK SAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa appealing not to proceed with the planned reduction in the minimum wage followed up by top-level representations from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), thru the respective Secretaries, and the present leaders of the Senate and Congress;

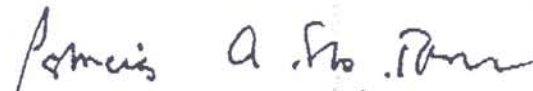
WHEREAS, such diminution in the minimum wage is unfair, unjust and discriminatory on foreign domestic helpers who are the lowest paid workers in Hong Kong, majority of which are Filipinos;

WHEREAS, on 5 March 2003, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo directed the POEA Governing Board to temporarily suspend the processing of all contracts for domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

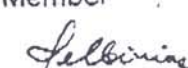
NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, hereby resolves to implement President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's directive by instructing POEA to undertake the following:

- 1) Temporarily suspend the processing of all new contracts for domestic helpers in Hong Kong, effective 10 March 2003 until further orders. The employment of Filipino domestic helpers presently employed in Hong Kong will not be affected provided there is no diminution in their wage and benefits.
- 2) To review the DH hiring policy in Hong Kong and other markets and to submit its report and recommendation to the Secretary of Labor and Employment within 30 days from the issuance of this Order.

Signed this 7th day of March 2003, in Mandaluyong City, Philippines


  
PATRICIA A. STO TOMAS  
Secretary of Labor and Employment  
and Chairman of the Board

  
VICENTE F. ALDANESE  
Member

  
LUZVIMINDA L. ELBINIAS  
Member

  
EZEKIEL T. ALUNEN  
Member

  
GREGORIO S. OCA  
Member

  
ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS BALDOZ  
Member