

PRESS RELEASE

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Baldoz extols OFWs for remittances

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz lauds the overseas Filipino workers for continuously keeping the country's economy afloat through their remittances but at the same time prods them to invest in business or other productive projects.

Baldoz said remittances may improve the living standards of the OFWs households in the short term but the non-productive aspects of some of the expenses do not necessarily promote development of the communities they live in

The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* predicts that OFW remittances may reach US\$10 billion by end of 2005. The Central Bank has said actual remittances could be 25 to 30 percent higher than what is officially sent through banks, as many Filipinos still use informal money transfers, such as sending money with visiting relatives and friends.

POEA facilitated the deployment of about one million Filipino workers overseas in 2005. There is a stock estimate of 3.165 million contract workers in more than 180 countries at any given time out of the 8 M Filipinos overseas.

Baldoz said various studies on spending patterns of OFW dependents showed that remittances were mostly allocated to food, education, utilities, household appliances and personal effects.

Baldoz advises OFWs and their families to invest in small business or in high-yielding government treasury bills, treasury bonds, foreign currency deposits or time deposits.