

PRESS RELEASE

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POEA awards P45 M to OFW claimants

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said some P45 million as monetary awards were given to workers who have filed charges against erring recruitment agencies.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the monetary awards resulted from compulsory arbitration of cases and voluntary conciliation among contending parties.

Baldoz said P8.2M were awarded through enforcement of writs of executions and P2.9 million plus USD9,713 refunded by the agencies to some 321 workers.

Some 33.4 million pesos were given to workers as settlement of cases through the voluntary conciliation system being implemented by the POEA.

The swift resolution of cases also resulted to an increase in income that POEA is remitting to the National Treasury by way of fines collected from licensed agencies which opted to comply with the alternative penalty rather than have their licenses suspended. For 2005, the POEA collected P11.039 M fines surpassing last year's collection of P10.5 million.

Baldoz emphasized that voluntary conciliation has contributed much to unclogging of its pending adjudication cases.

"Voluntary conciliation has cleared POEA's dockets of complaints which would have been formally filed otherwise and provided the complainants a swift alternative in the recovery of their claims", Baldoz said.

As of end of December, POEA handled 2,808 voluntary arbitration cases, half of which were settled, 768 cases docketed, 335 cases archived and 145 withdrawn.

The adjudication cases handled in 2005 reached 6,325, including 3,162 new cases plus the 3,163 cases pending by end of 2004. Of the total cases, POEA disposed 3,964, a disposition rate of 63 percent. ###