

## PRESS RELEASE

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# POEA expands online systems

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has widened the scope of its online systems in compliance with the e-Commerce Act and to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and reduce graft and corruption according to Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz.

Baldoz cited the OFW Inquiry System made available to the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA). The online inquiry system enabled the PTA to check the validity of the documents presented by dependents of OFWs applying for reduced travel tax. With the system, the OFW dependents are no longer required to present the official copy of the OFW information sheet, thereby reducing the time and money the dependent has to spend in acquiring the reduced travel tax. The paperless transaction reduced people traffic and generated ample savings for POEA.

Baldoz said the online verification system has also been expanded to its regional offices hasten the processing of documents of OFWs in the provinces. Through the system, the regional offices were able to check on the employment records of OFWs and the status of their agencies and employers and the availability of the job orders.

POEA also developed a watch list inquiry system for selected manning agencies where they can inquire about the derogatory record of an OFW. The manning agencies signed a memorandum of undertaking on the proper use of the online system. Part of the agreement is that the inclusion of the seafarers in the watch list should not prevent their possibility of employment.

Baldoz said POEA also implements the *e-Submission* system, a fast and efficient way of submission of contract particulars by recruitment and manning agencies using the internet.

Baldoz said the POEA, as lead agency, is set to implement in 2006 the e-Link System that will speed up transactions among 12 government agencies involved in the documentation and facilitation of overseas employment of Filipino workers. The first phase of the system will connect POEA with Manila International Airport Authority and the Bureau of Immigration by end of January 2006. The rest of the modules shall be implemented in May 2006.