

PRESS RELEASE

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Filipino professionals and technical specialists boost remittances

The deployment of Filipino professionals and skilled technicians contributed greatly to the unprecedented increase of OFW remittances in 2005, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said 33 percent of overseas Filipino workers deployed in 2005 were professional, managers and technical workers. In the case of seafarers, the deployment of officers and masters also registered a remarkable increase.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) admitted that the remittances from some 4.9 million Filipino workers deployed to 194 countries was the key factor in the surge of dollar remittances, which stood at USD8.8 billion as of October 2005. BSP projected the remittances to reach an all-time high of 12 billion US dollars at the close of the year.

According to Baldoz, the total compensation package enjoyed by this category of high-end OFWs and seafarers was enormous which afforded them to remit a bigger slice of their earnings back home. The minimum salary of professional workers was US\$1000.

Baldoz expressed optimism on the BSP projected increase of OFW remittances to about 10 percent in 2006 given the additional job orders which are estimated to exceed the job orders realized in 2005. The new job orders are expected to come from the traditional and emerging markets in the Middle East, Americas, Asia and Europe.

“With the heightened interest of employing professional workers in the medical, education, information and communication sectors by the more progressive countries, Filipino workers are assured of high paying jobs and better living conditions”, said Baldoz.

Baldoz also 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

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.