

NEWS RELEASE

February 23, 2006

Maid in Malaysia get salary through banks

Starting March 1, 2006, foreign domestic workers in Malaysia, including Filipinos will receive their salaries through banks, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Malaysia recently amended its 50-year old labor law, the Malaysian Employment Act of 1955 and now requires employers of foreign maids to open bank accounts for them and pay the domestic helpers through said accounts.

More than 300,000 Malaysian households employ foreign maids, majority of which are Indonesians and Filipinos.

According to Malaysian Human Resources Minister Datuk Fong Chang Onn, the new payment scheme will protect the workers from non-payment of wages or unjust withholding of wages by some employers.

The Philippine government welcomes this development as a positive step towards the continuing thrust of protecting the rights of Filipino overseas workers and providing them a just and humane working environment. ###