

## **NEWS RELEASE**

February 2, 2006

### **10 Filipino victims of illegal recruitment repatriated from Hong Kong**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration today reiterated its earlier warning to applicants that there are not much jobs available in Macau even as 10 Filipino victims of illegal recruitment were repatriated from Hong Kong.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the victims arrived in Macau last January 15, 2006 and found out that there is no job vacancy waiting for them. The victims were advised by the Philippine Consulate to return to the Philippines because of lack of documents for further stay in Macau.

Macau is implementing its localization program where local residents are given priority in the recruitment, particularly those who are qualified for basic level jobs.

The victims admitted that they were initially held by the immigration authorities in Clark Airport for lack of proof of employment in Macau but allegedly were able to depart after their recruiter paid some people in the airport. The victims were allegedly recruited by a certain Felmar Peñales of 134 Humildad St., F.B. Harrison, Pasay City. Peñales reportedly collected an average of P72,000 from each of the victims.

Foreign workers are allowed only to fill up shortage occupations in Macau like supervisors in the executive, finance, casino, gaming operations, hotel and restaurant, information technology and marketing departments.

Non-residents who are working without valid work permits will be penalized up to 20,000 patacas and will be banned to work in Macau for two years.