

PRESS RELEASE

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Victims arrest, let go illegal recruiter

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said the fight against illegal recruitment will not succeed unless the victims file and pursue the cases against their recruiters.

Disgruntled applicants for Korea Employment Permit System recently arrested a suspected illegal recruiter at the premises of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration but later let her go after refund of their placement fees.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the victims asked the help of the POEA security officers in accosting Wenona Divina Gracia Morillo Palangre aka Wenona Divinagracia Agregado Palangre.

Palangre brought her seven recruits to the POEA office in Mandaluyong City to convince them that their applications as factory workers to Korea were already submitted for processing.

Baldoz, however, expressed dismay that Divina Palangre is already out of Mandaluyong City jail because the complainants did not pursue the case when she paid them back their money. POEA officials requested the victims to file a case first but apparently the victims' intention really is just to get their money back. The recruiter has pocketed more than half a million pesos from collections of placement fees from the seven victims.

Because of the delay in their deployment and sensing that they were being deceived, the victims verified from the POEA Licensing Branch that Palangre was not authorized to recruit overseas workers, more so for Korea EPS.

Baldoz clarified that no private entities or individuals are allowed to facilitate the deployment of workers to Korea under the Employment Permit System.

Palangre was already included in the POEA list of persons with derogatory record on basis of the closure order against her agency, Fernandez Travel and Tours on January 11, 2005.

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