



NEWS RELEASE

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POEA questions grant of bail to American recruiter

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration questioned the Order of a Regional Trial Court judge in Davao City granting the Petition to Post Bail filed by the officers and staff of a US-based recruitment company that hires teachers from the Philippines.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said Executive Judge Renato A. Fuentes, RTC Davao City allowed the temporary liberty of Norman Gibbs, owner of E-World Resource Center, Inc. and his employees in the amount of P25,000 each or a total of P200,000.

The complainants-appellants, Francis B. Domingo and Venchito M. Bangayan of the POEA office in Davao City said the bail order violated Section 18, Rule 114 of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure because the Petition to Post bail was granted on the same date it was filed on April 3, 2006, without notice of hearing to the Prosecutor or failure to submit recommendation on cases involving the possible penalty of life imprisonment, as required by law.

Mr. Gibbs, and his employees namely Ramonette Legaspi-Olandesca, Percival N. Olandesca, Marvin E. Marquez, Mervin Jay D. Mino, Peterwel M. de Lira, Annamae Joy A. Camarillo and Alexander N. Persia, were charged for illegal recruitment following their arrest on March 31, 2006 at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City.

In their joint-affidavit-complaint, Domingo and Bangayan alleged that during a seminar conducted by the respondents at the Royal Mandaya Hotel, Gibbs, assured the 100 participants of teaching jobs in the USA. Gibbs said that placement will be made easy through registration at the company's website <http://eworldstaffing.com/> for a fee of P3,000.00.

E-World Resource Center has no license to recruit Filipino workers for overseas employment. Gibbs is the president of eworldstaffing.com which is an accredited principal of E-World Staffing Services, a licensed recruitment company in the Philippines, which has job orders for teachers in the USA.

Baldoz said the recruitment activity was illegal because the POEA has not granted any letter of acknowledgment to Gibbs for conduct interview or any recruitment activity outside the registered address of E-World Staffing Services in Pasig City.

In a related development, the illegal recruitment activities of the Crusaders Divine Foundation of the Philippines in Digos City were uncovered after 10 victims filed cases of large scale illegal recruitment and estafa against Rodolfo Cobias and his wife Delpha Cobias, the alleged president and manager respectively of the foundation and one Virgie Tampos at the Digos City Prosecution Office.

The victims said the accused couple promised them employment as factory workers in Nagoya, Japan with wages ranging from P120,000.00 to P150,000.00 per month, using tourist visas.

The foundation allegedly collected approximately P700,000.00 from the victims. They were also required to pay P300.00 membership fee, P150.00 for ID and P800.00 Niponggo language training. Some 100 victims of the foundation were expected to file similar cases against these persons.

Baldoz warned applicants to refrain from dealing with the foundation and its officers because they have no license to recruit factory workers for Japan. The office of the foundation has been vacated and may have been transferred their illegal recruitment activities in nearby provinces.

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