

NEWS RELEASE

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POEA asks for LGU's support for illegal recruitment-free community initiative

POEA chief Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz had solicited the support of local government units for the agency's initiative to transform cities, towns, and barangays nationwide into illegal recruitment-free communities, saying this is one of the steps to lick the illegal recruitment menace victimizing thousands of prospective overseas Filipino workers.

In a meeting she recently held with Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and other city officials to unveil the initiative, Baldoz said she recognizes the important frontline influence that the local government units exert in the lives of Filipinos, and she asked the help of the Quezon City government to include anti-illegal recruitment activities in its core service-delivery function.

"I request your help to make each and every city, town, and barangay in the country illegal recruitment-free," Baldoz appealed to Belmonte.

The POEA, under the instruction of no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is embarking on a renewed drive against illegal recruitment and illegal recruiters.

"Strong ties and support from LGUs will help us increase the level of awareness of prospective overseas workers on the harsh realities of migration, on illegal recruitment modus operandi and practices, and on labor and employment conditions overseas. Increased awareness will lead to our prospective OFWs making informed and intelligent decisions," Baldoz said.

On his part, Mayor Belmonte welcomed Administrator Baldoz's request of support and he pledged the active participation of Quezon City, particularly the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), in the POEA's renewed anti-illegal recruitment drive.

"We will give more teeth to our PESO to tackle this social menace. We will set up a help desk on illegal recruitment at the QC city hall," Belmonte committed. He encouraged other LGUs to do the same.

The POEA has identified the conduct of comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) in local communities and capacity enhancement training for LGU executives and PESO officials, apart from information dissemination, as two of the main initial strategies that it will reinforce and sustain in its LGU partnership against illegal recruitment. ###