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## Mandaluyong City joins POEA in fight against illegal recruitment

The City of Mandaluyong became the fourth local government unit in the National Capital Region to declare war against illegal recruitment when it signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration recently.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz Baldoz said that the signing of the MOU with Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali M. Gonzales II not only strengthened the partnership between them in dealing with illegal recruitment, but also affirmed the mayor's commitment to have Mandaluyong as an illegal-recruitment-free city.

Taguig, Valenzuela and Quezon City were the three cities in Metro Manila which made an earlier pledge of support for this cooperation.

Baldoz said the signing of the MOU with local government units (LGUs) underscored the importance of their role in the fight against illegal recruitment. The support and active participation of LGU officials and other partners, particularly the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), will be given more teeth in the campaign against illegal recruitment.

Baldoz explained that the local government units will facilitate the increase the awareness of prospective overseas workers on the harsh migration realities, anti-illegal recruitment practices, and information on labor and employment conditions, which will help them make informed and intelligent decisions.

With the help of LGUs, the crusade against illegal recruitment, through the conduct of Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) to their communities, capability enhancement trainings for LGU executives, and distribution of information materials, will be reinforced and sustained, Baldoz added.

As one of the initial projects for the implementation of the program, Mandaluyong City is also setting up a complaints desk to give immediate action on victims of illegal recruitment. ###