

NEWS RELEASE

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2006 OFW deployment exceeds 1 million mark

In just eleven months and for the first time in the 30-year history of overseas employment in the Philippines, the yearly deployment of overseas Filipino workers broke the one million mark, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reported.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that based on POEA's January to November 2006 preliminary data, OFW deployment reached 1,037,135 or 12.8 percent higher than 919,480 posted in the same period last year.

Baldoz attributed the increase in deployment to the continuing demand for OFWs, as employers hired 291,587 new land-based workers and re-hired 495,090. The deployment of seafarers also increased by almost 10 percent to 250,447 from the previous figure of 225,199.

Baldoz said that on the average, the POEA facilitates the deployment of at least 2,800 Filipino workers a day.

The increase in deployment is more remarkable considering the ban on deployment of domestic helpers to Lebanon and the slowdown of deployment of performing artists to Japan and factory workers to Taiwan.

Japan recently restricted the issuance of visas to entertainers while Taiwan held back the issuance of work permits to Filipino workers allegedly because of rampant falsification of employment documents.

The top countries of destination were Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and Singapore.

Baldoz added that the POEA accredited 17,261 foreign landbased and seabased employers and principals from January to October 2006, generating at least half a million job orders.

The increased OFW deployment also caused the upsurge in remittances which was placed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas at US\$10.3 billion as of October 2006.

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