

PRESS RELEASE

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Illegal recruiters target semi-skilled job applicants

Job applicants who aspire for lower level jobs are the most likely victims of illegal recruiters, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration revealed yesterday.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that based on the profile of 1,072 victims who filed 487 illegal recruitment cases at the POEA from January to November 2006, the recruiters promised their victims jobs as factory workers, caregivers, domestic helpers, ordinary seamen, and hotel workers.

The victims were supposed to work in South Korea, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Taiwan and international vessels. Most of them came from Quezon City, Cavite, Bulacan, Manila and Caloocan City.

The POEA has endorsed 309 of these cases involving 675 victims to the different city and provincial prosecutors office for the conduct of preliminary investigations.

"We are closely monitoring the development of these cases, specially the 32 large scale; 43 syndicated; and 30 large scale/syndicated illegal recruitment and estafa cases." Baldoz said.

Baldoz added that some 5,680 jobseekers filed administrative complaints against licensed agencies for pre-employment and recruitment violations.

In a related development, Baldoz said the POEA has intensified its campaign against illegal recruitment with the combination of inter-agency networking, worker education and direct actions against illegal recruiters.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Committee Against Illegal Recruiters, the POEA assumed a bigger responsibility to stop the activities of syndicates involved in "escort services" at the international airports.

The POEA also signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Bureau of Investigation for assistance in the immediate arrest of suspected illegal recruiters.

The composite POEA, NBI and CIDG operatives arrested 47 illegal recruiters and closed down 12 establishments including Pan Arabian International Agency; Emeville Manpower Services; RP International Recruitment/RP International Services; a branch office of Ren-Glo Enterprises Placement Agency; Buenamar Marine Services; Centrepoint for Interworld Manpower Services Inc; Carondelet Consultancy and Review Center; Denmark Travel and Tours; Excellent Search International Agency Corporation; Ren-Glo Enterprise Placement Agency; Bal Four Beatty; and RM Marine Services, Inc.

In its advocacy campaign, the POEA conducted a total of 662 pre-employment orientation seminars nationwide focusing on ways to avoid illegal recruitment and the most common modus operandi of illegal recruiters. The POEA provided capability enhancement training to managers of 159 Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) on educating their constituents on illegal recruitment and how to fight it.

The POEA also launched a multi-media campaign against illegal recruitment using the internet, TV infomercials, print ads, and electronic billboards. ###