

NEWS RELEASE

December 11, 2006

Foreign-based placement agencies not allowed to recruit Filipino workers for Spain

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday said that except in the Philippines, the Spanish government has not authorized any placement agency in Spain or other countries to recruit Filipino workers.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that under the "Proyecto Piloto", the experimental hiring of Filipino healthcare professionals and skilled workers, only Philippine-based and licensed recruitment agencies are allowed to deploy OFWs to Spain. In our memorandum of understanding with Spain, the point of hiring and issuance of entry visas and work permits are exclusively in the Philippines.

Baldoz said she received reports that some manpower brokers outside the Philippines are recruiting Filipino caregivers in Israel and other countries to work in Spain. She also warned applicants of job placement websites that lure OFWs into working in Spain, and a certain Fil-Service Agency which engages in illegal recruitment activities.

Baldoz also said that under Spanish laws, recruitment fees are limited to the equivalent of the worker's one month salary and can only be collected upon issuance of the entry visa and work permit by the Spanish Embassy in Manila.

Baldoz said that it is illegal to enter Spain with a tourist visa if the intention is to seek employment and such visas cannot be converted to work permits.

There is currently a modest opening for Filipino workers Spain under the pilot project. The qualification requirements are as follows: academic degrees in medicine, nursing, physical therapy, and related fields; adequate work experience in a hospital or healthcare institution and proficiency in the Spanish language.

###