



NEWS RELEASE

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Korea increases EPS quota for Filipino workers

Filipinos continue to be the most preferred workers under the Employment Permit System as the Ministry of Labor of Korea increases to 12,000 the job roster quota of the Philippines for 2007 from 10,000 in 2006.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis Baldoz said that because of our good performance in 2006, the Philippines got the highest quota among 14 labor sending countries to Korea which include Thailand with 11,000; Vietnam 11,000; Indonesia 9,000; Mongolia 9,000; and Sri-Lanka with 8,000. Other countries have quotas ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 workers.

Baldoz said the decision to increase the quota for the Philippines underscores the confidence of Korea in the soundness of our labor migration policies and the competence of the government overseas employment agencies to deliver the required services in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between Korea and the Philippines. It also effectively debunked speculations that the quota will be reduced because of the alleged increase in the number of overstaying Filipinos in Korea.

"The rate of increase of illegal foreign nationals was one of the criteria used in the country allocation so the insinuation was proved wrong with the increase of quota," Baldoz said.

The Korea Ministry of Labor reported that from January to November 2006, a total of 2,053 foreign workers left their employers illegally. Mongolians topped the list with 687; Thais, 612; Indonesians, 246; Filipinos, 231; Vietnamese, 193; and Sri Lankans, 84.

The other criteria used were employers' preference, labor contract cancellation, speed of deployment process, and number of industries looking for prospective workers. ###