



News Release
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Anti-graft body clears POEA official

The Investigation Office of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) has dismissed for lack of merit, a complaint against a POEA official for allegedly pocketing of the refund claims of applicants for the Korean Language Test (KLT).

An anonymous complainant accused Nini Lanto, Director II of the Employment Branch of the POEA, for allegedly misappropriating the registration fees of applicants who failed to take the language test.

As a requirement for employment to Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS), applicants shall take the KLT for a fee of PHP 1,500.

Per information of a certain Dr. Kim, who handles the KLT exams in the Philippines, that the money for refund is in the hands of Director Lanto, they demanded the return of the registration fee they paid. No refund was, however, made to the applicants allegedly because of a "no refund policy" in force.

After due investigation, the PAGC concluded that neither Director Lanto nor the POEA itself has a hand in receiving the payments for the registration fee for the KLT, much more, the return of such payment to applicants who failed to take the exams.

The guidelines in the conduct of the KLT expressly provides that the testing fee of US\$30 or its peso equivalent shall be paid by the applicant to the International Korean Language Foundation (IKLF) through Land Bank of the Philippines, its designated bank.

Obviously, Director Lanto or POEA does not accept payments for the Korean Language Test and are not in a position to make the refund in favor of the applicants. ###