



## News Release

September 12, 2007

### **Barangay official arrested for illegal recruitment**

Operatives of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Erlinda Bonifacio Morales, a barangay councilor in San Mateo, Rizal in an entrapment operation after her victims reported to the POEA her alleged illegal recruitment activities.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the arrest was triggered by a complaint of Estelita Tamayo, Me-ann Asuncion and Rodelson Bautista who claimed they were recruited by Morales to work as domestic helper in Jordan and Kuwait, and waiter in Dubai respectively. The three victims said they were asked to undergo medical examination and pay Php3,500 each.

The complainants agreed to pay but inquired first from the POEA if Morales has a license to recruit. POEA records not only showed that the councilor has no authority from the POEA but also a previous complaint from Alvin and Nolasco Razon who were deployed by Morales to Singapore as fishermen and never received salaries during their 6-month stay.

Morales promised her victims deployment as direct hires so they will not have to go through the POEA processing.

Morales was arrested after receiving marked money from Tamayo, Asuncion and Bautista supposedly as payment for medical tests in a fast food store in Cubao, Quezon City.

Morales denied the allegations of the complainants but cases of Large Scale Illegal Recruitment under RA 8042 and Estafa are now prepared by the POEA and the CIDG for endorsement to the Task Force on Illegal Recruitment at the Department of Justice.

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