



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **Philippine mission flies to Guam to offer construction, manpower services**

A joint government-private sector group, composed of government officials from the Philippines' Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Trade and Industry and local government of the City of Olongapo, along with 53 manpower supply agencies, and 15 contractors, is looking into acquiring infrastructure and manpower supply contracts in Guam as they undertake a marketing mission on April 28-30, 2009.

The Philippine delegation will meet with representatives of the U.S. and Guam Department of Labor, the Joint Guam Program Office, Citizenship and Immigration Services and other concerned government agencies in Guam to explore possible participation of the Philippines in the construction boom in Guam that is expected to start in the middle of 2010. The delegation is also scheduled to meet with officials of the Guam Contractors Association, Guam Chamber of Commerce, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and Guam-based Filipino contractors and participate in the Guam Industry Forum III organized by the JGPO and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific (NAVFAC) relative to the design, construction and logistic support requirements for the relocation of some 8,000 U.S. Marines and their dependents from their current base in Okinawa to Guam.

The mission intends to familiarize with the Guam labor market and network with key persons from the government and private sector in Guam for prospective contracting and manpower supply with their Guam counterparts. The Philippine government officials will also take the opportunity to raise awareness about the Philippines' current labor and industrial capacities, and the country's willingness to assist in the massive construction projects expected to be undertaken as part of the construction buildup for the Marines' relocation. The U.S. government estimates that around 15,000 temporary workers will be needed for the construction of various U.S. military facilities in the island.

The mission is headed by Undersecretary Luzviminda G. Padilla of the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment and includes Administrator Jennifer J. Manalili of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.