

News Release  
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## **Baldoz wants long lines gone, orders full implementation of Balik-Manggagawa Online Processing System**

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz yesterday directed all Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) to ensure the full implementation of the BM Online or the Balik-Manggagawa Online Processing System in their respective posts before the year ends.

“We are already nearing this year’s peak season and we have to make sure that by that time, the long lines at our processing centers are gone and more vacationing OFWs are using the system to get their overseas employment certificate (OEC). Last year, our labor attaches have assured me of 100 percent implementation of the BM Online by 2015 and I hold them accountable for that promise,” she said.

Baldoz advised the overseas labor offices to set up computers to be used exclusively for BM Online processing in their respective workplaces.

The Secretary also instructed Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac to make sure all records of OECs issued manually are already in the system within the year so that more OFWs can secure their succeeding OECs using BM Online.

In his report to the Secretary, Administrator Cacdac said the POEA has hired temporary staff and rented computers to hasten the encoding of OECs issued offline at POEA Regional Offices, POLOs and other processing centers.

Cacdac said that as of May 24, 2015, more than 100,000 vacationing workers have used the BM Online System, 15 percent of which have applied and were issued their OECs through straight online processing. Majority of them got their exit clearance through the BM Appointment System, but the POEA is confident that in their next vacation, most of them would use straight online processing as long as they are returning to the same employer because their information are already in the POEA database.

According to Cacdac, the top users of the BM Online Processing system were Filipino workers from Singapore and United Arab Emirates followed by vacationing workers from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Kuwait and Japan.

Secretary Baldoz said POLOs with high concentration of Filipino workers should work double time to promote the BM Online in their respective areas of responsibility and increase awareness that will make its use a routine.

The Balik-Manggagawa Online Processing System aims to expedite the issuance of OEC to vacationing OFWs who will return to their respective foreign employers/ principals. OFWs on vacation returning to the same employer/principal and jobsite, with employment visa/ work permit, have a record in the POEA database, and previously issued an OEC/E-Receipt under the same employer/principal may avail of the BM Online Processing System. Workers who do not meet the said criteria are advised to still access the BM Online Processing System for them to avail of the appointment service through its appointment page for regular processing of their OECs on their preferred processing site and appointment date and time. END