



NEWS RELEASE

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POEA lifts suspension orders against 84 recruitment firms

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration gives assurance that the one million jobs targeted for 2006 will be achieved even as the suspension orders issued by the POEA to some 84 recruitment agencies have been lifted as of June 6 after compliance with the P1M escrow requirement.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said she is optimistic that more agencies will be paying the additional escrow soon because they do not want to totally lose their business.

Suspension orders are immediately lifted after compliance by the recruitment agencies.

POEA issued the suspension orders against 436 recruitment agencies for failure to comply with the one million escrow deposit required by the POEA Rules and Regulations.

Baldoz said she is giving recruitment agencies enough time to pay up the escrow as she denied published reports that she intends to shut down for good agencies that failed to make a deposit within a month.

Baldoz said that despite the suspension, pipeline accounts of the agencies are still being processed so as not to prejudice the deployment of the workers. Preliminary figures showed that 466,201 OFWs have been deployed as of June 5, 2006.

The agencies were duly notified of the requirement and were given 4 years to comply but they failed to infuse the necessary increase thus raising the question of their financial capacity to continue participating in the overseas employment program. The POEA Rules gave existing landbased agencies until May 31, 2006 to increase their escrow deposit to P1M. The deployment of one million overseas Filipino workers in 2006 is one of the flag-ship programs of the government. ###