

PRESS RELEASE
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POEA expands services to returning OFWs

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration expands its services to returning overseas workers starting December 15, 2005 up to January 16, 2006 in anticipation of the arrival of more OFWs this Christmas season.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that in addition to the existing facilities at the Balik-Manggagawa Center at the POEA central office, an extension area shall be put up at the main lobby of the Blas F. Ople building.

The POEA will also continue to issue exit clearance for the returning workers in all its regional offices, deputized OWWA offices, and satellite and mall processing units at SM branches in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and San Fernando, Pampanga.

The POEA regional offices are located in San Fernando, La Union; Baguio City; Clark Field, Pampanga; Calamba City; Legaspi City; Tacloban City; Cebu City; Iloilo City; Bacolod City; Davao City; Cagayan de Oro City; Cagayan de Oro City; and Zamboanga City.

Baldoz said returning OFWs may also have their exit clearance processed through the Teleserve Express Delivery System, a private company which provides a one-way or two-way system of serving OFWs. In the two-way system, the worker calls the Teleserv hotline 737-7777 and is advised on the requirements for processing if he is qualified as a *balik-manggagawa*. The applicant then submits the requirements and pay the fees to the nearest LBC office, the accredited courier of Teleserv. Teleserv then forwards the documents and fees to the POEA central office for processing. The exit clearance is released to Teleserv which will forward the same to the worker through LBC.

The one-way process may be availed when the worker visits the POEA central office and submits the required documents to the Teleserv office located at the Balik-Manggagawa Center. Teleserv will submit the document to POEA which processes and returns it to Teleserv for delivery to the residence of the worker.

POEA also issues a multiple-travel exit clearance (MTEC), a set of two- or more clearances issued to OFWs for use as an exit document within a periods of twelve months from the date of issuance. It allows an OFW who exits from the Philippines more than once in a period of 12 months to secure his exit clearance on a one-time basis.

Baldoz said the said workers include, but are not limited to cabin crew, flight attendants, off-shore workers and other worker classifications with short duration of contract and frequent vacations or renewal of contracts. The multiple travel exit clearance is valid for one year after the date of issuance. ###