

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 203, January 20, 2000 ]**

**ESTABLISHING AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE SHARED GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR MIGRATION**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to uphold the dignity of its citizens, whether in the country or overseas;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to protect the interests of labor in general, as well as that of overseas migrant workers in particular, whether documented or irregular;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes not only the important contribution of overseas migrant workers to the country, but also the vulnerable situations they are often placed in;

WHEREAS, in order for the government agencies to fully, swiftly and in unity address general and specific concerns of migrant workers and overseas Filipinos, there is need for government agencies to have access to related information;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8042, otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995" provides for the establishment of a Shared Government Information System for Migration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. Establishment of the Inter-Agency Committee on the Shared Government Information System for Migration. The Inter-Agency Committee on the Shared Government Information System for Migration (IAC-SGISM) is hereby established.

Sec. 2. Composition of the IAC-SGISM. Said Inter-Agency Committee shall be composed of the following agencies:

- a) Department of Foreign Affairs, as Chairman;
- b) Department of Labor and Employment, as Vice-chairman;
- c) Department of Justice;
- d) Department of Tourism;
- e) Bureau of Immigration;
- f) Commission on Filipinos Overseas;
- g) National Bureau of Investigation;
- h) National Statistics Office;
- i) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; and
- j) Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Sec. 3. Support Agencies. The IAC-SGISM may seek the assistance and support of

the Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Computer Center, National Labor Relations Commission, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippine National Police (PNP), Office of the Presidential Adviser for OFW Affairs, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in the implementation of its mandate.

A technical Committee shall be created from among the IAC and the support agencies in the development and implementation of the SGISM.

Sec. 4. Information Sharing. The Inter-Agency Committee shall initially tap the information contained in existing database/files. The second phase shall involve the linking of computer facilities in order to allow free-flow data exchanges and sharing among the agencies concerned.

Sec. 5. Security and Confidentiality of Data/Information. Information and data acquired through this shared information system shall be treated as confidential and shall only be used for lawful and official purposes, in connection with the usual functions of the members agencies, and for purposes envisioned by R.A. 8042.

Accordingly, access and use of the said data/information shall be limited to the heads of agencies, their deputies/assistants, and officers who are directly responsible in implementing the agency's participation in the IAC-SGISM.

Access of other staff to selected data/information will be on a need-to-know basis and will require the appropriate security clearance from the head of agency.

Member-agencies of the IAC and the support agencies will formulate the necessary guidelines that will define the levels of access and security guidelines for this purpose.

The IAC and the Support Agencies will work towards the promotion of transparency on the matter of sharing data not only among themselves, but with the public, and ultimately declassify data with a view of promoting public participation in policy making and program development.

Sec. 6. Sharing of Databases. The Inter-Agency Committee and the Support Agencies shall convene to identify existing databases which shall be declassified and shared only by and among member agencies. These shared databases shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a) Masterlists of Filipino migrant workers/Filipino emigrants/Filipino fiancées/spouses of foreign nationals and other categories of Filipino nationals overseas classified according to occupation/job category, age, sex, civil status, by country/state of destination, including visa classification;
- b) Inventory of pending legal cases involving Filipino migrant workers and other Filipino nationals, including those serving prison terms;
- c) Masterlists by age and sex of departing/arriving Filipinos;
- d) Statistical profile on Filipino migrant workers. Filipino emigrants/Filipino fiancées/spouses of foreign