

[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 446, July 12, 2005 ]

**TASKING THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO OVERSEE AND COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS INITIATIVES FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS)**

WHEREAS, the provision of opportunities for employment is among the priorities of the Administration under its 10-point Agenda for Governance;

WHEREAS, the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which comprise about 98% of the country's business establishments, is one of the major strategies of the Administration to create jobs, generate higher incomes and bring about more balanced economic growth and social equity;

WHEREAS, the remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), recognized as the country's "modern-day heroes", constitute a critical flow of foreign currency into the Philippine economy;

WHEREAS, the channeling of remittances to national savings or domestic investments, particularly in SMEs, can lead to greater capital accumulation and multiplier effects;

WHEREAS, the synchronization of existing programs for OFWs that are being implemented by different government agencies can lead to a synergy that can most effectively and efficiently serve the current development objectives of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

*SECTION 1. Lead Agency* - The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of various initiatives for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The Secretary of Labor and Employment is hereby tasked to oversee and coordinate these initiatives.

*SECTION 2. Support Agencies* - The DOLE Secretary shall coordinate, integrate, design and endorse appropriate actions to implement the general work program for OFWs with the following:

- a. Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
- b. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
- c. Secretary, Department of Finance
- d. Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- e. Presidential Adviser for Overseas Filipino Communities

*SECTION 3. Establishment of a Technical Working Group* - There shall be a Technical Working Group (TWG), established and maintained to provide administrative and technical support to the DOLE Secretary. The TWG shall consist of the representatives from the core agencies of the DOLE and the support agencies, as well as other concerned agencies. There shall be organized four (4) sub-groups, which shall act as quick response teams for issues/queries in their respective areas of responsibility.

These sub-groups will focus on the following:

- Bank-related initiatives:

Chair : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
Vice-Chair : Department of Finance  
Members : Land Bank of the Philippines  
Development Bank of the Philippines  
Bankers Association of the Philippines  
Association of Bank Remittance Officers, Inc.  
Rural Bankers' Association of the Philippines  
Chamber of Thrift Banks

- SME-related initiatives:

Chair : Department of Trade and Industry  
Vice-Chair : Department of Labor and Employment  
Members : Technology and Livelihood Resource Center  
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
National Livelihood Support Fund

- OFW and Labor-related initiatives:

Chair : Department of Labor and Employment  
Vice-Chair : Department of Foreign Affairs  
Members : Overseas Workers Welfare Administration  
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration  
Office of Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities  
National Statistics Office  
National Statistics Coordination Board  
Bureau of Labor Employment Statistics