

[**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:

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| 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:

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| 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:

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| 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 |