TO: ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION RE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR IRAQ

In view of the numerous queries from various quarters concerning the employment opportunities arising from the Reconstruction Program for Iraq, the POEA hereby makes the following clarification:

Unavailability of job orders. To date, there are no manpower requests or job orders from foreign principals or contractors for the project. It is expected that these will come in the next few months, when the major contracts shall have been awarded and sub-contracted.

Acquisition of sub-contracting opportunities. To ensure substantial Filipino participation in the Reconstruction Program, the government, through the Public-Private Task Force on Post-War Reconstruction of Iraq, which was created under Executive Order No. 194 s. 2003, has been exerting efforts toward acquiring a considerable share of all business and employment opportunities.

Initial projections. Between 2,000 and 3,000 job orders are likely to be secured within the first two (2) years of the said Reconstruction Program. This projection is premised on the following considerations: One, much of the work that will be done in Iraq under the auspices of the American military administration during the first two years will be devoted primarily to damage assessment and repairs. Two, the American military administration’s own corps of engineers and other personnel will initially undertake many phases of such reconstruction work. Three, Iraqi nationals who are equally qualified for the jobs are likely to be given preference over migrant workers in job placements.

The promotional and facilitative role of the POEA. As a member of the said Task Force, the POEA will play a promotional and facilitative role insofar as manpower-related matters are concerned. More specifically, it will produce a list of qualified local service contractors and local recruitment agencies for the manpower-sourcing reference of prime contractors. Local contractors and agencies included in the list, which will be posted on the POEA’s website, will have earned the POEA’s seal of good housekeeping. In addition, the POEA will formulate recruitment and hiring guidelines to facilitate deployment including a special licensing facility, if and when necessary.

Having made this clarification, the POEA hopes other quarters with similar queries or related concerns will be guided accordingly.

Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz
Administrator

15 May 2003