



Department of Migrant Workers

Ortigas Avenue corner Epifanio delos Santos Avenue
City of Mandaluyong, 1550 National Capital Region

Office of the Secretary



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH DURING THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE OFW CENTER IN LAS PIÑAS LAST APRIL 8, 2022

- 1) **BUDGET LIMITATIONS.** The DMW was delayed due to budget restraints. Most of the government's resources were used during the pandemic but now that COVID-19 cases have lessened, a budget may now be given to the Secretary of DMW for the department.
- 2) **ON RED TAPE.** The President detailed how the journey of an OFW starts with the processing of their papers. The slow pace due to red tape and going to different agencies just to get the documents they need like NBI, BIR, NSO, etc. makes it so difficult for OFWs especially with the traffic situation in Manila. Their expenses pile up from traveling to different agencies and going back continuously until they complete their papers. The President issued a lot of computers for these agencies and they need to provide a kiosk specifically for OFWs. He mentions that he has the executive power to carry out what he wants. If there is a paper that require the intervention of government do it in a way that won't make it harder for the OFW - minimize the paperwork if possible and it should be in one place.
- 3) **DANGER OF DRUGS TO OFWS.** Drug peddlers often prey on the family and children of OFWs. When an OFW comes home they find out that all their hard work just went to drugs and their family becomes lost to drugs.
- 4) **SATELLITE AGENCIES.** The President want OFW Centers to be established in all major cities.
- 5) **IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS.** Collaborations between the government and its partners (whether private or non-profit) is the key to achieving concrete results in promoting the welfare and the holistic development

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of our OFWs.

- 6) **OFW MILESTONES DURING PRRD'S TERM.** a) OFW hospital in Pampanga and the b) DMW which aims to ease transactions for the OFWs and their families. The President wants to digitize transactions and open satellite offices so OFWs can acquire what they need more easily.
- 7) **OFW ISSUES ABROAD.** OFWs are exposed to external risks especially in the Middle East - the President wants Secretary Mama-o to look more closely on this.
- 8) **WORKING TOGETHER.** We need to work together to ensure that the welfare and protection of OFWs are in the forefront.

All concerned are enjoined to abide by these Presidential priorities and to work hard towards turning them into realities for our Migrant Workers.

Mandaluyong City, 16 May 2022.


ABDULLAH D. MAMA-O
Secretary 

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