

No layoffs of domestic helpers—POEA

MANILA—Despite fears at the start of the economic downturn in September 2008, no Filipino household service workers have been laid last Feb. 12.

POEA Administrator Jennifer Manalili said that so far, her office has not received reports of layoffs of overseas Filipino workers, particularly household service workers in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Labor Secretary Mariano Roque and Center for Migrant Advocacy executive director Ellene Sana earlier said household service workers would be relatively immune from the impact of the crisis. They reasoned that such workers are more needed in times of crises as families see a more urgent need for a two-breadwinner setup.

The number of OFWs laid



Labor Secretary Mariano Roque

off due to the crisis remained at around 5,000, a tenth of the 50,000 overseas Filipinos seen to be affected by the economic downturn, Manalili said.

“Unlike in the previous months, when the layoffs were plenty, we have seen the number of layoffs trickle down to a handful,” she said without

giving specific figures.

Manalili said the layoff and deployment figures for January were not yet available.

“We have not yet collated the figures from the airports in the regions, but from the data we have now, there have been no significant changes for the month of January,” she said, explaining that the monthly deployment figures are usually a month late.

At the same time, Manalili said the 400,000 job orders available for Filipinos who want to work abroad remain the same. She said these job orders remain unfilled as these require top-notch qualifications.

She said that Qatar has recently formalized its requirements for 8,000 jobs mostly in the construction industry with the same number of job orders. (*Inquirer.net*)

Investors file case vs Legacy owner, 13 others

by **EDU PUNAY**
Philstar.com

MANILA—With the Legacy Group’s promise of huge returns on investment now shattered, former investors filed yesterday a syndicated estafa case against the troubled firm’s owner Celso de los Angeles and 13 others in-

cluding his wife and son. The 12 investors, led by Francisco Obsenares, filed the case with the Department of Justice against De los Angeles, his wife Ma. Concepcion, son Nicolo Martin, mother Purita, and brother Victorino. The nine others charged were Christine Limpin, Madeline Cobarrubias, Norman Tiongson, Carolina Hinola, Rita Maniacup, Basilio Carpio, Ariel Isberto, Agnes Santiago and Namnaman Pasetes Santos.

In a 30-page complaint, the group said the Legacy owner and officers committed “illegal and fraudulent acts” in violation of Presidential Decree No. 1689 or the law against estafa.

The petitioners claimed they were victims of a scheme in which “drawers of checks issued in payment of investment assigned by the investor did not belong to the assignee but to yet another company of respondents.”

They described the scheme as “rob-Juan-to-pay-Pedro” and likened it to the high-level fraud committed by Charles Ponzi, who duped thousands of New England residents into investing in a postage stamp collection in the 1920s.

Inc., Fusion Capital Corp., Conventional Realty Corp., Galaxy Realty and Holdings Inc., One Realty Corp., Shining Armour Property Inc., Legacy Card Inc., Legacy Consolidated Plans Inc. and Legacy Motors Inc.

“The above enumerated companies are but conduits organized to recruit investors and, depending on availability of funds, issued checks purportedly in payment of the investments made which were ultimately dishonored because the entire scheme collapsed,” the charge sheet read.

The companies eventually folded up after filing voluntary dissolution with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The complainants, aside from Obsenares, are Ramon Suarez and Indian nationals Narain Ladharam, Sanjay Mahibubani, Haresh Vasandani, Haresh Manwani, Rocky Manwani, Shanker Ramchandani, Sita Ramchandani, Pran Ramchandani, Asha Shamdasani and Kamlesh Shamdashani.

It was the first criminal complaint filed against De los Angeles. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier lodged criminal cases against officers and employees of

four rural banks under the Legacy Group but De los Angeles was not among those charged.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said 116 counts of falsification of public and commercial documents along with two counts of false statements have been filed against 18 officers, employees and agents of four rural banks under the Legacy Group.



The banks were the Rural Bank of Parañaque, Rural Bank of DARBCI in South Cotabato, Rural Bank of San Jose in Batangas and Bank of East Asia.

Central bank officials said De los Angeles was not included in the case because he was not listed as an official or stockholder of any of the Legacy group’s companies.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales said a DOJ panel would also try to determine if De los Angeles could be held liable.

NBI invitation
Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation has asked eight members of the Legacy board and officers to appear before NBI investigators on Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Special Investigator Darwin Francisco said the subpoenaed officers were Elvira Garcia, Madeline Cobarrubias, Cecille Invention, Monina Viergeza-Dio, Bishop Ignacio Soliba, Elvira Nebre Edgardo Marasigan, and Josefina Castañeda.

Francisco said the NBI has also requested the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold departure order against the Legacy officers.

The BI earlier placed De los Angeles on the hold departure list.

Pilipino po tayo! LAW OFFICES OF KENNETH U. REYES, P.C. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



Kenneth U. Reyes, Esq.

Law Offices of
Kenneth U. Reyes, P.C.
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90010

IMMIGRATION

- US Citizenship
- Green Card

Marriage Petitions, Realtive Petitions

Employer Petitions, PERM

- Visa

H-1B Temporary Worker

Investor’s VISA

- Deportation Defense

PERSONAL INJURY

- Serious Auto Accidents

• Rear Enders

• Injuries from defective products

• Serious injuries from premises accidents

• Fractures & brain injuries from accidents

FAMILY LAW

- Divorce

• Property Division

• Child Custody and Visitation

• Child and Spousal Support

• Domestic Violence Restraining Order

• Legal Separation

CIVIL LITIGATION

• Business Disputes

• Real Estate Disputes

• Breach of Contract

• Partnership Dissolution

• Business Dissolution

We Pay Special Attention to Your Case
Call for an Appointment

(213)388.1611

website: www.kenreyeslaw.com

email: kureyeslaw@aol.com

JOYCE R. RAMOS, CPA

An Accountancy Corporation

(661) 310-3455

joyce@joyceramoscpa.com

www.joyceramoscpa.com



Tax Services

- Tax Preparation—Business & Individual
- Income Tax Problems Resolution
- Strategic Income Tax Planning
- Audit Representation
- Payroll & Sales Tax Returns

Accounting Services

- Financial Statement Preparation
- Bookkeeping/Write Up
- Quickbooks Installation & Training
- Payroll



America Counts on CPAs™

At your service for more than 10 years:

- San Fernando Valley
- Santa Clarita Valley
- Los Angeles
- Glendale
- Burbank



BIGGEST DISCOUNT SALE for SCRUB and LAB COATS



DICKIES / BABY PHAT / BARCO / CHEROKEE / WHITE SWAN
KOI / FASHION SEAL / GRAY’S ANATOMY

• LITTMAN STETHOSCOPE and NURSE-MATE SHOES ON SALE!

HOLLYWOOD UNIFORMS Tel. (323) 661.7649
1303 N. Vermont Ave., L.A., CA
Hours: 9:00 am – 6:30 pm (Mon-Sat)
www.uniforms4u.com

WORLD’S MOST COMFORTABLE SHOES

• PLS. CALL FOR PRICES. WE OFFER LOWEST PRICE POSSIBLE



• 2ND PAIR YOU GET \$15 OFF
• 3RD PAIR YOU GET \$20 OFF



COMPLETE SELECTION

• The only SAS Shoe Store in Hollywood and Glendale

• FREE Shipping if you Order by Phone

PRICES ARE ALWAYS BEST in
HOLLYWOOD COMFORT SHOES

Tel. (323) 661.1012
1301 N. Vermont Ave., L.A., CA
Hours: 9:00 am – 6:30 pm (Mon-Sat)