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Big cooperative files complaint vs Legacy

THE Dole Philippines Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative Inc. (DARBCI), one of the biggest cooperatives in the country, lost P70 million to one of the rural banks of the collapsed Legacy Group of companies.

In its latest complaint against the Legacy Group, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) filed charges of syndicated estafa (fraud) tantamount to economic sabotage against Legacy founder Celso de Los Angeles Jr. and other corporate officers for misappropriating DARBCI's money.

The BSP said the General Santos City-based Rural Bank of DARBCI, one of the 13 failed rural banks of the Legacy Group, siphoned off the P70 million that the cooperative had deposited in the bank.

DARBCI is considered one of the richest cooperatives in the country since it became a beneficiary of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program that started in 1988.

With the collapse of the rural bank, along with the entire Legacy Group of companies, DARBCI accused De Los Angeles and other Legacy officers of conspiring to siphon off the IMA funds that led to the bank's closure while leaving DARBCI members empty-handed. (*Inquirer.net*)

[TheWeekthatWas]

New visa scheme likely to open more jobs in Dubai

A new visa scheme is expected to boost Filipinos' chances of being employed in Dubai, a group of labor exporters said.

According to the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters (FAME), the move to grant multiple entry visas to foreign employers who enlist Overseas Filipino Workers will increase the OFWs' chances of landing some 200,000 jobs in Dubai.

Lito Soriano, FAME executive director, explained how Lebanese and Egyptian employers find it difficult to come to the Philippines and hire OFWs.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan recognizes the Bureau of Immigration's part in generating jobs.

The bureau kicked off its Special Visa for Job Generation (SVEG), which gives indefinite-stay visas to foreign nationals who hire at least 10 Filipinos.

Pres. Gloria Arroyo recently visited Dubai where foreign employers based in the United Arab Emirates handed her a manifesto, with their hope to create more jobs in the city.



Asian, European leaders address global crisis

GOVERNMENT leaders representing more than half of the world's population kicked off the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on sustainable development.

Attended by over 150 member-countries, the conference in Makati City tackled both the global economic crisis and climate change.

The Foreign Affairs Department said the Philippine government is urging other states to increase regional and multilateral cooperation in solving these problems and in reaffirming their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

The European Commission said the dialogues focused on resolving the issues "in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding."

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto and EC Director-General Koos Richelle keynoted the conference.



RP gov't to tighten belt, create more jobs

PRES. Gloria Arroyo ordered government agencies to allot 1.5 percent of their operating budget to job creation, as a way to curb financial crisis in the Philippines.

Through Administrative Order 261, the Philippine government's belt-tightening measure aims to generate about 180,000 new jobs and up to P7 billion in funds.

Pres. Arroyo also ordered the cancellation of this year's Independence Day parade, which costs about P30 million, as part of the government's "series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending."

"The government must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average Filipino household," the president wrote in the order.

A job fair will instead be held on June 12 to help 40,000 workers affected by the crisis find jobs or livelihood opportunities.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said Pres. Arroyo wants jobs created over a period of six months. ■

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