

OFW inflows seen to continue growing this year

by DES FERRIOLS
Philstar.com

REMITTANCES from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would continue to grow this year as the Arroyo administration pushed for bilateral agreements for the deployment of more workers abroad.

The consensus projection made by private analysts since the beginning of the year indicated that remittances are generally expected to decline by as much as 20 percent this year as the global economy struggle to prevent job losses.

The government expects remittances to only match last year's inflow of \$16.4 billion and central bank officials based its balance of payments projections on this assumption.

According to the latest Market Call Research of First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific, however, they expect remittances to be sustainable despite the lingering global

economic crisis.

Remittances actually continued to grow, albeit slowly, rising by 2.2 percent in April, slightly lower than 3.1 percent in March.

"Even so, it can also be observed that OFW remittances for the first four months of the year now stands at \$5.5 billion, up by 2.6 percent from last year's levels," the report noted.

Although remittances rose by 2.2 percent, the report said inflows were steady and despite the minimal growth rate, it was still on track. "It is defying consensus that OFW remittances will register significant negative growth this year," the report said.

"Sustained demand for our migrant workers in different countries continues to help keep up these inflows of OFW remittances," Market Call said.

"Moreover, with the government's employment deals with several countries in need of our workers—the risks

from the continuing global economic recession affecting the remittances are being tempered," the report added.

The research report cited the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership (JPEPA) which led to the deployment of an additional 273 health workers to Japan. More importantly, the initial adverse trends in labor deployment have also shifted.

"Even the rise in retrenchments of OFWs has abated," the report said.

In peso terms, the Market Call report said the small 2.2-percent growth of OFW remittances in April translated to a huge 17.9 percent growth. However this rate was below the 20-percent mark, indicating a slowdown.

The Market Call Report said the slowdown resulted not only from the deceleration in the growth of remittances in dollar terms but also from the half-percent appreciation of the

► PAGE A11

H1N1 cases hit 1,709; 1,485 recover

by SHEILA CRISOSTOMO
Philstar.com

MANILA—The Department of Health (DOH) has recorded 1,709 confirmed cases of Influenza A(H1N1) in the country as of June 27, but the good news is that 1,485 of them are now free of the virus.

"The remaining 224 or 14 percent are still under treatment at present, most of them under home management," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a statement.

The DOH, according to the health chief, is anticipating more cases in the coming months, so it would "institute effective mitigation measures to save lives and prevent deaths and to reduce the impact of the pandemic on our nation and the economy."

Although the cases are dwindling as compared to some few weeks ago, several schools were still forced to suspend classes or implement measures to prevent the virus from spreading.

Four cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) have tested positive for the virus, prompting school officials to implement stricter measures.

PNPA director Chief Superintendent Danilo Abarsoza said the four cadets were among the trainees in Silang, Cavite, who availed of their weekend pass last week. There are 1,030 cadets in the academy.

The latest suspension of classes was reported at the St. John's Institute (SJI) in Bacolod City.

Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia said the school administration confirmed the suspension as a precaution after more than 100 students fell ill due to the common flu Monday, June 29.

Although the DOH regional office is not treating the situation as "case under observation," the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital will be conducting random swabbing and contact tracing among parents of Grade 3 students.

SJI principal Fr. Noli Que informed Leonardia that 30 of the 60 pupils no longer have fever, as of press time.

Two schools in Tacloban City, Leyte and in Antipolo City, Rizal also suspended classes at all levels due to confirmed cases despite a government instruction to schools to avoid entire school shutdowns.

The Department of Education (DepEd) Influenza A(H1N1) Action Center said the San Benildo Integrated School suspended classes starting yesterday until July 11, while the St. Therese Child Development Center in Tacloban City suspended classes starting yesterday until July 6.

Kenneth Tirado, DepEd communications unit head, said that DepEd was still giving schools the prerogative to decide whether to have entire school shutdowns or limiting suspensions to affected sections or levels.

Mancao now officially a government witness

by TETCH TORRES
Inquirer.net

THE Department of Justice has approved the application of former police officer Cezar Mancao into the government's Witness Protection Program (WPP).

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said Mancao's inclusion to the WPP will settle the question of transfer of detention.

Devanadera is referring to the bid of lawyer Dante David, who asked Manila Regional Trial Court branch 18 Judge Myra Garcia Fernandez to transfer Mancao, "an ordinary inmate," to the Manila City Jail.

David had argued that the Constitution provides for equality, therefore no special treatment should be accorded the former police official who is also among the accused in the double murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

David is the counsel for Senior Police Officer 4 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Jose Escalante, and SPO3 Mauro Torres, three of the 21 accused in the death of Dacer and Corbito.

this afternoon.

Devanadera said that after the arraignment, the prosecution panel

can start the process of making him a state witness by making a recommendation to the court.

STUDY FOR A CAREER IN THE HEALTHCARE FIELD

• LVN Program

PM Class - July 6, 2009; AM Class - Aug. 17, 2009

• Hemodialysis Technician (8 weeks)

- Starts June 2009

Monthly Classes: CNA (AM 191/2 days; PM 30 days)

• Acute CNA • Basic Anatomy & Physiology

• HHA • RNA

Upcoming Courses: LVN IV Certification Course

• Medical Terminology

Education loans available if qualified



PRIME Career College
(707) 644-1123

Accredited by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, CA Board of Vocational Nursing, and CA Dept. of Health Services.



"Maaasahan at mapagkakatiwalaan"
(Dependable/Trustworthy)

Atty. Melba Espartero-Cawit

DIVORCE • PERSONAL INJURY

Wills & Living Trusts • Workmen's Compensation

Fast, Effective and Aggressive Representation at Reasonable Costs

Member: State bar of California • Integrated Bar, Philippines • American Immigration Lawyers Association
• National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys

IMMIGRATION

- Green Card, Working Visa, Labor Certification for Professional Workers, Care Home Workers & Housekeepers
- H1-B Visa and PERM
- Immigrant & Non-immigrant Visas
- U.S. Citizenship
- Deportation & Asylum
- Affidavit of Support & U.S. Embassy Assistance

BANKRUPTCY

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 13

MORTGAGE LOAN

MODIFICATION

FREE CONSULTATION FOR BANKRUPTCY, PERSONAL INJURY AND WORKER'S COMP.

(510) 489-2698 32116 Alvarado Blvd., Union City CA 94587
(209) 839-9368 2680 N. Tracy Blvd. Ste 5A Tracy CA 95376
(707) 655-4097 2015 Springs Rd. Ste. C Vallejo CA 94591

LOAN MODIFICATION

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COMBINATION OF LAWYER AND CPA

- ✓ ATTORNEY Representation
- ✓ CPA prepared (income + expense) financial statements
- ✓ MORTGAGE BROKER

Processing Techniques

- SHORT-REFI • SHORT-SALE
- WALK AWAY SETTLEMENT



FREE SEMINAR WITH Q & A EVERY SATURDAY 2-4PM

\$2,950 for first 10 callers

WE SAVE YOUR AMERICAN DREAM!

XGI GROUP 1-888-316-2990

(510) 489-4XGI • (510) 489-9900
(415) 519-8369 • (510) 731-7831 • (650) 898-4581

www.XGIgroup.com

"MURA NA-MABILIS PA" NVOC WV 17753NF BALIKBAYAN BOXES DIRECT

A.C.E.

Associated Consolidators Express

CALL!!! BOXES WILL BE PICKED-UP WITHIN 24 HOURS!

SUPER SUPER SALE

\$49.00
METRO MANILA (20"x20"x20")

- LUZON 1 - \$55.00
- LUZON 2 - \$60.00
- VISAYAS - \$65.00
- MINDANAO - \$70.00
- PALAWAN - \$80.00

FREE PICK-UP EVERYDAY + FREE STRAPPING + FREE REPLACEMENT BOXES

CONTAINER SERVICES:

- Returning Resident - Door-to-Door - Port-to-Port
- Commercial Cargo
- Motor Vehicles

Head Office & Warehouse: 1273 Industrial Parkway #290 Hayward, CA 94544 **510-690-1777**

Valid until July 31, 2009 • Only for Northern California

San Francisco	415-238-7197	Seaside/ Salinas	831-899-7916	Stockton	209-951-4234
Vallejo	707-642-6160	Daly City	650-755-5285	Sacramento	916-332-5571
Palo Alto	408-806-8770	San Jose	408-270-9717	Contra Costa	925-560-0458
Elk Grove	916-752-2787	East Bay	510-690-1777	Tracy/ Modesto	209-639-2218
Tahoe/ Reno	775-232-8657			Fresno	559-298-8378

SUB-AGENTS AND CO-LOADERS ARE WELCOME. WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
Subject to terms and conditions: Prices are subject to change without notice. Subject to peace & order in some parts of the Philippines. Subject to weather conditions, typhoons, floods & other calamities • Palawan, Puerto Princessa & Mindoro Calapan only.