



ITALY ALLOCATES QUOTA FOR WORKING VISAS FOR FILIPINO WORKERS

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Rome, Italy reported that on 07 March 2006, the Italian government had signed the Decree on Immigration Quota for Non-European nationals. Overall, there were 34,000 slots which were allocated to 11 countries, such as Egypt, Moldova, Albania, Morocco, Tunisia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nigeria, European Unions, Pakistan and Somalia.

The Italian government allocated 3,000 new working visas for Filipinos seeking employment in Italy classified into the following categories: a) domestic helpers; b) subordinato - managers, skilled and unskilled workers; and c) stagionale or seasonal workers. Of the 3,000 slots, 1,000 visas were allocated for applicants classified as subordinato.

Under the new procedure, the employment documents/contracts are submitted to the Philippine Embassy for verification/authentication once the employer obtains an approval to hire the foreign workers. The verified and authenticated documents will be sent to the Italian Embassy in Manila for issuance of visa and consequently to the POEA for processing. Upon arrival of the OFW in Italy, she/he will report to Sportello Unico within eight days, after which she/he will proceed to the Questura for the Permesso di Soggiorno or the work permit.