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**PSA Gives Clearance to the Conduct  
of the 2017 Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF)**

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) cleared the conduct of the 2017 Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF) through the Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS) on 31 June 2017.

The 2017 SOF is a nationwide survey that seeks to gather information on Filipino citizens including workers who left abroad during the last five years. It intends to obtain the national estimates on the number of overseas Filipinos including overseas workers, their socio-economic characteristics, and the amount and mode of remittances; in cash and in kind, received by their families. The 2017 SOF is a rider survey to the October 2017 round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS).

The key results of the 2015 SOF are the following:

- The number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who worked abroad at anytime during the period April to September 2015 was estimated at 2.4 million. Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) or those with existing work contract comprised 97.1 percent of the total OFWs during the period April to September 2015. The rest (2.9%) worked overseas without contract.
- CALABARZON reported the biggest share of OFWs with 17.9 percent followed by Central Luzon with 15.1 percent and National Capital Region with 11.0 percent. OFWs from these three regions accounted for 44.0 percent of the total OFWs. Meanwhile, ARMM reported the smallest percent share of total OFWs at 1.5 percent
- The proportion of female OFWs (51.1%) was higher than male OFWs (48.9%). The largest proportion of OFWs belonged to age group 25 to 29 years comprising 25.8 percent of all OFWs, followed by those aged 30 to 34 years with 23.2 percent.
- One in every four OFWs (24.7%) worked in Saudi Arabia, which remained to be the top destination of OFWs in April to September 2015.

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- Other countries in Asia which were popular destinations of OFWs are United Arab Emirates (15.5%), Hong Kong (5.9%), Kuwait (5.8%), Singapore (5.7%) and Qatar (5.5%)
- Among occupation groups, laborers and unskilled workers (33.2%) were the biggest group of OFWs.
- The total remittance sent by OFWs during the period April to September 2015 was estimated at 180.3 billion pesos. These remittances included cash sent home (135.6 billion pesos), cash brought home (37.3 billion pesos) and remittances in kind (7.4 billion pesos). The majority of OFWs sent their remittance through banks (62.2%) while the rest through agencies or local offices (4.0%), door-to-door delivery (2.4%), friends or co-workers (0.1%) or through other means.
- The total number of OFWs who sent cash remittances to their families from April to September 2015 was about 2.1 million OFWs. Of this number, 39.1 percent were able to save from their cash remittances.

This year's conduct of the 2017 SOF will utilize a budget of Php 10,000, which covers printing expenses. Personal services will be covered by the October 2017 round of the LFS.

The 2017 SOF was reviewed and cleared for conduct under the SSRCS of PSA, a mechanism being implemented by virtue of Rule 28 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA No. 10625 to:

- ensure sound design for data collection;
- minimize the burden placed upon respondents;
- effect economy in statistical data collection;
- eliminate unnecessary duplication of statistical data collection; and,
- achieve better coordination of government statistical activities.

In line with this, the PSA enjoins the public to participate in the said survey.

For further information on the SSRCS, please contact the Statistical Standards Division (SSD) of the Standards Service (SS) at telephone numbers (632) 376-1928 and (632) 376-1931, and email addresses: [ssd.staff@psa.gov.ph](mailto:ssd.staff@psa.gov.ph) and [ssdss.staff@gmail.com](mailto:ssdss.staff@gmail.com).

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