

Quarterly news from the global chapters of Migrante International to help OFWs stay informed and connected to the Philippines and the migrant worker movement.

# Overseas Filipinos unite to demand a Family Living Wage in the Philippines

Overseas Filipinos support the call of militant labor groups to raise wages in the Philippines to a Family Living Wage (FLW).

Nearly 200 organizations and individuals including chapters of Migrante and progressive groups of workers, women, youth, religious people, and migrant rights organizations, issued a joint manifesto in support of a **PhP1,200 minimum daily wage for workers in the private sector and PhP33,000 monthly minimum wage for public sector employees.**

Chapters of Migrante, Gabriela, Anakbayan in North America, Middle East, Europe, and Asia Pacific are some of the signatories supportive of the call of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition, and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) to raise wages.

According to the groups, implementing the increase will help narrow the gap between the current daily minimum wages and required FLW.

The manifesto also calls for the end of neoliberal state policies like liberalization, privatization, and deregulation advocated by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank among countries like the Philippines, which negatively affecting the economy.

An FLW is the income required to meet essential expenses including food, other basic needs, and savings for a family five. But **the average daily minimum wage in the Philippines is at PhP440/ \$7.49 USD, which is only 36% of the daily FLW pegged at PhP1,207/ \$20.55 USD.**

“We are very much concerned with the surging prices of basic commodities - including the cost of utilities, health care, education, housing, and petroleum products, among others – which the current daily minimum wage falls far short of covering,” states the manifesto. “This, coupled with landlessness and the lack of jobs, creates chronic poverty that drives millions of us and our

families to work abroad in order to survive. The continuing institutionalization of labor export increases the numbers of victims of human labor trafficking in the country.”

Last year, over 7,000 Filipinos left the country daily to find work abroad, highlighting the lack of jobs and opportunities and worsening living conditions.

The worsening unemployment in the Philippines is due to the government’s labor export program forcing millions to find work abroad despite the risk of becoming victims of labor trafficking.

The U.S. and Philippine governments’ refusal to

develop national industries and implement genuine agrarian reform keeps Filipinos impoverished.

Instead, the PH government has pushed job contractualization, anti-worker policies, union busting, and the persecution of labor and peasant activists and human rights defenders.

OFWs including caregivers, undocumented workers, working youth, and landed immigrants with strong ties to Philippines through their families and loved ones recognize the urgent need for a family living wage. “Our families should not have to constantly rely on the remittances born from our working two, to three, or even more jobs under exploitative and dangerous conditions,” they said.





Poverty thresholds indicate the minimum amount of income a person or family needs to meet their basic needs. People whose income falls below the specified amount are considered to be in poverty

From the Ibon Foundation's graphic we clearly see that the majority of Filipinos are living in poverty and the current minimum wages throughout all the regions are not enough for them to survive.

This is why Migrant International supports the Family Living Wage of PhP1200 per day and PhP33000 per month

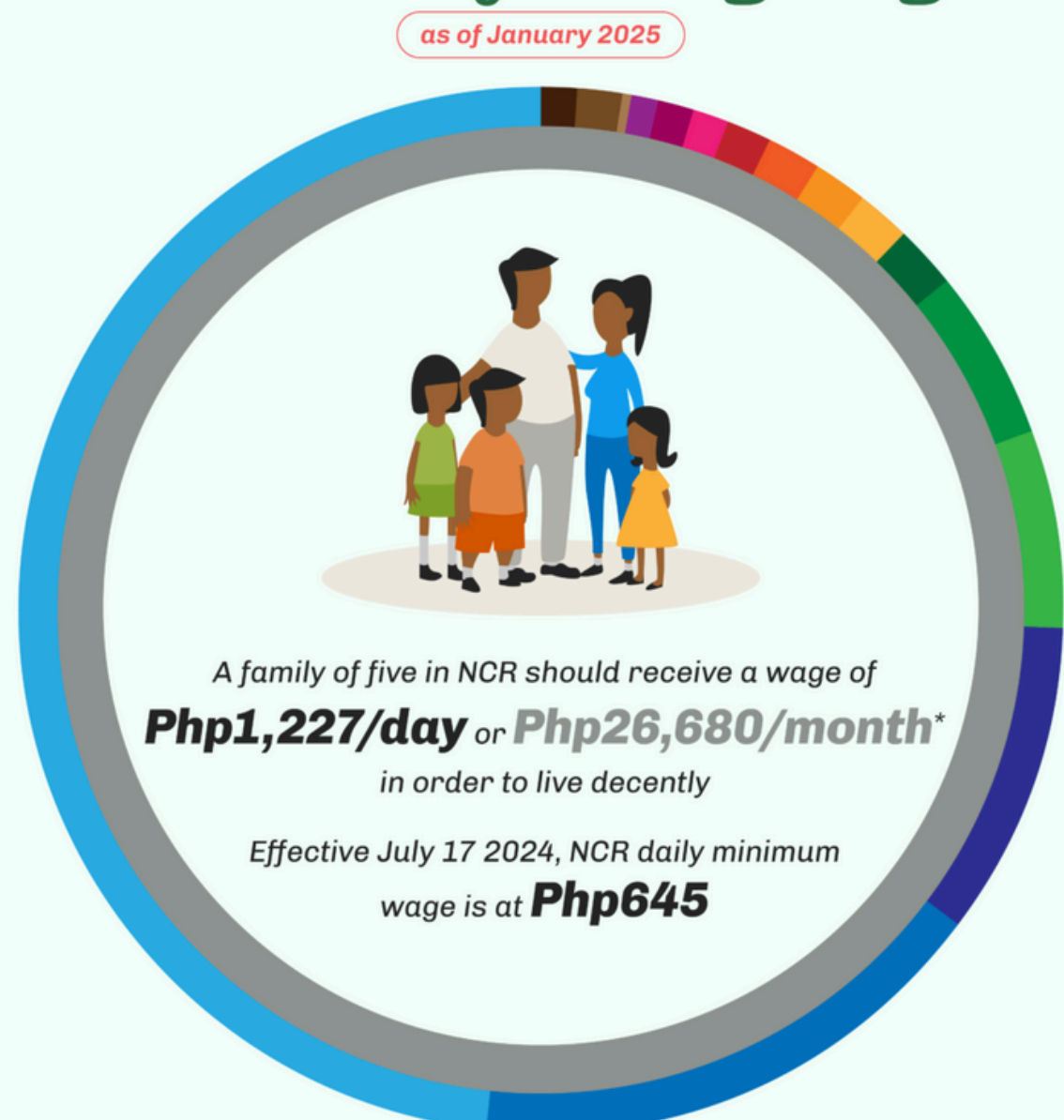
Since 2020, basic family living expenses increased from PhP 1022/ day to PhP1227/ day in 2025

### Low real wages, more expensive food

	JANUARY	2022	2023	2024	2025
NCR minimum daily wage <small>in Php</small>	REAL <small>2018=100</small>	494	482	502	516
	NOMINAL	537	570	610	645
NCR food prices <small>in Php/kilogram, unless specified</small>	RICE <small>Regular-milled</small>	39	39	44	45
	CAMOTE	66	69	82	80
	POTATO	81	140	131	166
	CARROT	85	92	107	158
	EGGPLANT	83	138	113	160
	PECHAY <small>Native</small>	70	81	83	95
	GARLIC <small>Native</small>	271	289	327	335
	ONION <small>Red</small>	184	425	149	143
	TOMATO	62	79	86	170
	SUGAR <small>Refined</small>	58	100	86	83
	EGG <small>Per piece</small>	6	8	8	9
	FISH <small>Galunggong</small>	239	259	262	299
	CHICKEN <small>Fully dressed</small>	162	200	181	192
PORK <small>Liempo</small>	365	364	363	409	

NCR - National Capital Region  
 SOURCES: Department of Agriculture, National Wages and Productivity Commission, Philippine Statistics Authority

### NCR Family Living Wage



Full data and infographics can be found at <https://www.ibon.org/flw-ncr-2501/> and <https://www.ibon.org/prices-wages-ncr-2501/>