

**Good News**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
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## **DOLE ON TELECOMMUTING**



With the worsening traffic and transportation system in the Philippines, telecommuting or online home-based employment obtained an increasing employment interest among workers and job hunters alike.

Jack Huang, Chief Executive Officer of 51Talk, said that due to very high English proficiency, competency and neutral accent, Filipinos are desirable candidates as online English teachers. A setback to this though is that workers are not considered employees but a freelancer or independent contractor of the company. As such, they do not have the same security and benefits like what regular workers receive from its employers.

Telecommuting or online home-based jobs are not prohibited in the Philippines. However, there are points which must be reviewed further. Considering the need of an enabling law to secure the rights of workers engaged in telecommuting, the House of Representatives initiated a bill to bridge the gaps.

Senate Bill No. 1033 entitled *An Act Institutionalizing Telecommuting in the Workplace and for Other Purposes* aims to promote adoption of flexible work arrangement in the private sector from an alternative workplace with the use of telecommunication and computer technologies.

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