

## LIGAYA S. CABAL

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Division  
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Canlubang, Laguna  
*Dangal ng Bayan Awardee, 2001*



She was underrated, deemed unqualified in a field where men and height requirements reign. One break was all it took for Ligaya Cabal to prove that behind her pretty face and petite stature resides a formidable spirit capable of ridding the country of its most dangerous criminals.

To earn the respect of the male-dominated police force, Cabal chose to be a traffic patrol officer to launch her career. She refused bribes and in fact arrested fixers on the spot. Slowly but surely, she gained her colleagues' respect by going out on night patrols, answering routine calls and confronting suspects in the streets.

Her great challenge was drawn when she was asked to run the intelligence task force for the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. With her good nose for leads and cunning leadership, her team broke up more than 50 illegal recruitment gangs and arrested over 200 illegal recruiters.

Hence, thousands of victims, some of whom were about to give up their family land or life savings for often-phony jobs overseas, were saved.

Cabal's prowess spread throughout the Philippines when the media discovered this darling who is actually Philippine National

Police's secret weapon. Small and frail looking, she has gone undercover as a sexy applicant, an entertainer in Japan, a nurse for the US, a drug user, or simply a charming woman.

Cabal's wit and bravery have proven once again that women can excel in a man's world. •

