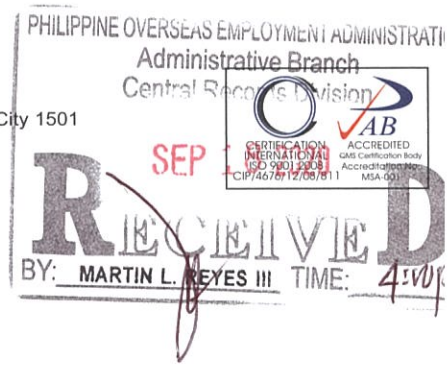




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**POEA warns public anew on travel agencies engaged in illegal recruitment**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) reiterates its warning on travel agencies illegally recruiting for overseas jobs. The POEA has received numerous reports concerning travel agencies offering employment abroad. The scam involves payment of large amounts of placement/processing fees in exchange for promise of work with lucrative salaries in factories, farms, or hotels and multi-year visas to countries such as South Korea and New Zealand.

Relative thereto, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines has recently issued an Advisory warning the public to be careful not to fall for said schemes citing that a travel agency, Sam Stay Tours, has been engaged in fraud by offering fake work or tourist visa stickers. The embassy of the Republic of Korea clarified that Sam Stay Tours is not an accredited travel agency of the embassy, and that restriction on work and tourist visa issuance is in place due to COVID-19. Also, visa stickers are no longer being issued since July 1, 2020. Instead, visas are printed out through the Visa Portal ([www.visa.go.kr](http://www.visa.go.kr)).

Aside from Sam Stay, other travel agencies reportedly conducting overseas recruitment activities are MGR Travel, Ailar Travel Agency, Agencia de Marisian, and other similar travel agencies. As part of their modus, said travel agencies are presenting dubious certificates of registration from the Department of Trade and Industry, which even if valid, does not authorize them to conduct recruitment activities, as they are not licensed by the POEA. The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in New Zealand and South Korea also clarified that they have not accredited any Philippine-based travel agency to conduct recruitment activities.

The POEA reiterates its warning to ignore unsolicited job offers made by travel agencies, consultancy firms and/or training centers. These are illegal recruitment schemes. The POEA also asks the public to immediately report any suspicious activities pertaining to recruitment scams to the Operations and Surveillance Division at email [poea\\_airb\\_osd@yahoo.com](mailto:poea_airb_osd@yahoo.com) or contact 8722-1192/8568-0786.

  
**BERNARD P. OLALIA**  
Administrator

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BY CRD ON SEP 18 2020