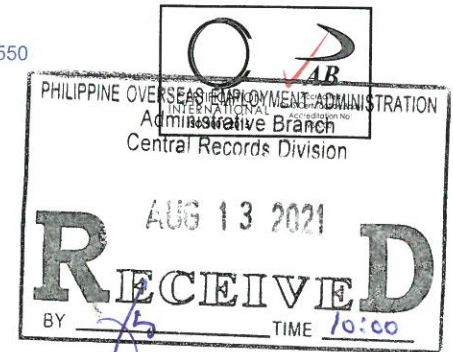




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NEW MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS IN SINGAPORE

The Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM) announced last 22 July 2021 that it will be implementing new measures to strengthen support for migrant domestic workers (MDWs). These measures include the following:

- a. Requiring doctors to record MDWs' body-mass index and check for signs of suspicious and unexplained injuries during their six-monthly medical examination to better pick up any signs of abuse. These records are to be submitted to MOM. This measure will be implemented by the third quarter of 2021.
- b. Requiring employment agencies (EAs) "to conduct post-placement checks to ensure that MDWs and employers are adjusting well, and offer support if needed". This will be implemented in the fourth quarter of 2021.
- c. Interviewing the MDWs twice in their first year of work through the neighborhood centers to be set up in partnership with the Centre for Domestic Employees. MDWs are currently interviewed once on their first year at work. The interviews will provide MDWs and their employers with more opportunities to raise and resolve issues, and settle into their working relationship. The first neighborhood center is expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2022.
- d. Requiring employers to provide their MDWs with at least one rest day a month that cannot be compensated away. Currently, MDWs can opt to work on all their rest days with corresponding pay. The new measure mandates employers to provide at least one rest day per month, which cannot be waived. It provides opportunities for MDWs to "form a network of support outside the household, as well as rest and recharge from work". The mandatory rest day policy will take effect on the last quarter of 2022.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

2 August 2021
Source: POLO-Singapore

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