



**Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration**

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New Guidelines on Passport Turn-over of Offloaded OFWs during community quarantine

In view of the continuous rise of COVID-19 cases, changing quarantine classifications, and stricter health protocols implemented at the DFA Office of Consular Affairs, deferred departure or offloaded Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are hereby advised of the revised guidelines in the turn-over and release of passports.

Passports of offloaded OFWs who fail to pass through the Bureau of Immigration (BI) due to incomplete or spurious documents, or are possible victims of illegal recruitment or trafficking in persons, are endorsed by the BI to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) thru the POEA Labor Assistance Center (LAC) at the airports for further investigation. The POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch will examine the BI and LAC's report together with the passport and other documents for possible violations of the Migrant Workers Act, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the 2016 POEA Rules and Regulations, and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

Offloaded OFWs will be interviewed by the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch. As a preventive measure and to ensure the safety and health of all, the conduct of interviews may be conducted through personal appearance or through any virtual platform. Offloaded OFWs are advised to contact the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch at email airbranch@poea.gov.ph on the date indicated in the Acknowledgment Receipt issued by the Labor Assistance Center, for the schedule of their interviews. Further, offloaded OFWs are required to indicate their mobile number and email in the LAC Acknowledgment Receipt.

In order to assist deferred departure or offloaded OFWs, passports may be returned to the workers after the conduct of investigation and interview. However, in instances when the worker may be a victim of trafficking in persons, or when there are indications that any of the grounds for the denial, cancellation, or restriction of passport under the Philippine Passport Act exists, the passport shall be turned over to the DFA Office of Consular Affairs for their appropriate action.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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