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## Reiteration of Warning on Third-Country Recruitment Scheme for Deployment of Filipino workers to Poland

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) received reports from posts regarding the proliferation of third-country recruitment schemes which promise employment in Poland, particularly targeting Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) currently employed in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and the Middle East.

Under this scheme, recruiters from immigration and visa consultancy firms lure already employed OFWs with alleged job vacancies in Poland, and charge them with exorbitant fees for the supposed processing of their visas, documents, and requirements. In the process, OFWs leave their current employers and break their contracts, only to find out upon reaching Poland that the supposed job vacancies do not exist.

The public is reminded that immigration and visa consultancy firms, whether in the Philippines or overseas, are not authorized to recruit Filipinos for employment abroad.

The POEA strongly encourages all Filipino workers to deal only with licensed Philippine recruitment agencies which have valid POEA-approved job orders for Poland. This is to ensure that OFWs are properly documented, and their rights and welfare are protected by the Philippine and Polish governments.

Overseas job seekers are advised to use the POEA Verification System at the POEA website (<a href="www.poea.gov.ph">www.poea.gov.ph</a>) or email the POEA Information Center at connect@poea.gov.ph to confirm overseas employment offers. The POEA also encourages the public to immediately report any suspicious recruitment activities to the Operations and Surveillance Division via email at <a href="mailto:osd@poea.gov.ph">osd@poea.gov.ph</a>. Information on avoiding recruitment scams is available at the POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch Facebook Page at <a href="www.facebook.com/airbranch">www.facebook.com/airbranch</a>.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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