

Republic of the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501

Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph

Hotlines: 722-1144, 722-1155



## GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 16 Series of 2016

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10022 authorizes the POEA Governing Board, after consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), to impose a ban on the deployment of Filipino migrant workers in pursuit of national interest or when public welfare so requires;

WHEREAS, POEA Advisory No. 6, Series of 2011 was issued on 22 February 2011 suspending the processing and deployment of all OFWs bound for Libya because of heightened political unrest in the country;

WHEREAS, in December 2011, the Office of the President approved the recommendation of the DFA on the lowering of the crisis alert level in Libya from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 2, in view of the improved security and political situation in Libya;

WHEREAS, to implement the approval of the Office of the President, POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 10, Series of 2011, was issued allowing the gradual processing and redeployment of returning workers in the medical and oil sectors, subject to proof of existing employment, as determined by POEA;

WHEREAS, in March 2012, the deployment ban to Libya was lifted and Governing Board Resolution No. 05, Series of 2012 was issued for the resumption of the processing and deployment of Filipino workers to Libya;

WHEREAS, the DFA in its letter dated 19 May 2014 and upon the recommendation of the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli, raised the Crisis Alert Level to Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase) from Alert Level 1 (Precautionary Phase) in Libya due to continued deterioration of the political and security situation in Libya;

WHEREAS, on 29 May 2014, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) raised the security Alert Level in Libya to Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation Phase) following the escalating civil unrest in the country;

WHEREAS, on 30 May 2014, POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 08, Series of 2014 was issued imposing a total deployment ban on the processing and deployment of all OFWs bound for Libya;

WHEREAS, on 11 June 2014, the DFA recommended the exemption from the total deployment ban to Libya of certain skill categories of OFWs to be allowed to return to the said country provided that their employers will issue a letter guaranteeing their safety, security and repatriation in case the situation in Libya worsens and there is imminent danger to their lives and well-being;

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WHEREAS, on 11 June 2014, the DFA through the Secretary of Foreign Affairs recommended the exemption from the total deployment ban to Libya of certain skill categories of OFWs to be allowed to return to the said country, provided that their employers will issue a letter guaranteeing their safety, security and repatriation in case the situation in Libya worsens and there is imminent danger to their lives and well-being;

WHEREAS, on 13 June 2014, POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 09, Series of 2014 was issued to allow the processing and deployment of certain skill categories of returning workers to Libya;

WHEREAS, on 22 July 2014, POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 17, Series of 2014 was issued to allow the processing and deployment of additional categories of returning workers;

WHEREAS, on 09 February 2016, the DFA through the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) recommended under certain conditions the exemption to OFWs of the Libyan Norwegian Fertilizer Company (LIFECO) and Sirte Oil Company (SOC) from the deployment ban imposed in Libya;

WHEREAS, on 12 August 2016, POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 15, Series of 2016 was issued allowing the processing and deployment of returning Filipino workers employed by Libyan Norwegian Fertilizer Company (LIFECO) and Sirte Oil Company (SOC) in Marsa El Brega, Libya upon the favorable recommendation of the composite team from the DFA subject to the submission of necessary documents cited by DFA;

**WHEREAS**, on 18 August 2016, there was a general assessment conducted at the host country. A team from the DFA visited the jobsite and examined the current situation;

WHEREAS, the DFA in its letter dated 02 September 2016 and upon the recommendation of the Philippine Embassy in Libya, lowered the alert level from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase) in said country;

WHEREAS, under Alert Level 2, processing and deployment of workers shall be allowed only for OFWs returning to their current employers and are with existing employment contracts;

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to allow the processing and deployment to Libya of returning Filipino workers with valid and existing contracts, subject to the submission of the necessary documents cited by the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli, as follows:

1. Copies of existing contracts;

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- 2. Certification of salaries and benefits of OFWs;
- 3. Letter from the employers requesting for the return of the OFWs;
- 4. Security and safety guarantees through valid company certifications

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- 5. Medical and life insurance coverage;
- 6. Guarantee of immediate repatriation based on submitted contingency plans

The deployment ban for newly-hired OFWs shall be maintained until further notice.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2016.

SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary of Labor and Employment and
Chairperson of the Board

HANS LEO J. CACDAC
POEA Administrator and
Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board

ESTRELFTA S. HIZON

ALEXANDER E. ASUNCION

Member

FELIX M. OCA Member

GBR Libya Alert Level 2