

WHEREAS, a consultation with the DFA was made on 03 January 2018, and the DFA in its letter to DOLE dated 06 January 2018, wrote, "the Department is convinced that there is basis to lower the Alert Level for Iraq from IV to III as recommended by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad";

WHEREAS, the POEA Governing Board in a similar occasion issued Governing Board Resolution No. 21, Series of 2014 allowing the deployment ban exemption for selected categories of workers for Afghanistan upon recommendation of the DFA in its letter dated 21 July 2014;

WHEREAS, in another instance, the POEA Governing Board issued Governing Board Resolution No. 16, Series of 2016, allowing the processing and deployment to Libya of returning Filipino workers upon the recommendation of the DFA and lowering of the alert level in its letter dated 02 September 2016;

WHEREAS, the DFA in its letter to DOLE dated 23 May 2018, lowered the Crisis Alert Level in Iraq to Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation Phase) from Alert Level 4 (Mandatory Repatriation Phase), while the travel ban to the no-go zones covering the northern half of Iraq (Salahuddin, Anbar, Nineveh and Kirkuk) will be maintained;

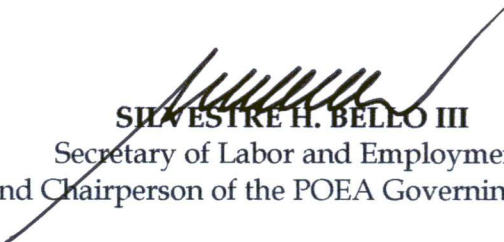
NOW THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board in a meeting duly convened, **RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to exempt the documentation of returning workers, except household service workers, in the current deployment ban under the selective Balik-Manggagawa Exemption Program as proposed by the DFA:

1. Filipinos employed by Filipino, foreign and Iraqi companies with existing contracts with the Government of the Republic of Iraq; the Government of the United States; the Governments of Member States of the International Coalition; and the United Nations, other International Organizations and International Non-Government Organizations; and those employed as private staff by foreign diplomats assigned in Baghdad and ranking officials of the Government of the Republic of Iraq provided that such employers have no pending labor-related cases as certified by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad;
2. Filipinos working and living in secured compounds in the following provinces: Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Dhiqar, Karbala, Maysan, Mathunna, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Saladin, Wasit, and other areas that are certified as safe by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and provided that their employers bring them to the nearest airport and back to their premises using secured and non-public transportation;
3. The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad shall provide the POEA on a regular basis a list of Filipino workers who have applied for Balik-Manggagawa coverage. In order to travel back to Iraq, Filipino workers covered by these exemptions must submit to the POEA a certificate of exemption issued by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and copies of the requirements so that they can be issued Overseas Employment Certificates (OECs).

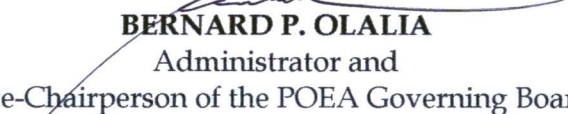
RESOLVED FURTHER, that the POEA will formulate and issue the necessary implementing guidelines to carry out this Resolution.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the current Crisis Alert Level 3 imposed in Iraq and the suspension on the processing and deployment of new hires as well as the travel ban to the no-go zones covering the northern half of Iraq (Salahuddin, Anbar, Nineveh and Kirkuk) is maintained.

Done in the City of Manila, this 17 day of August 2018.




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



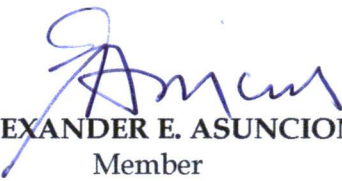
BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator and
Vice-Chairperson of the POEA Governing Board



ESTRELITA S. HIZON
Member



FELIX M. OCA
Member

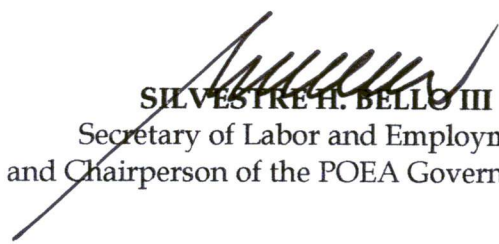


ALEXANDER E. ASUNCION
Member

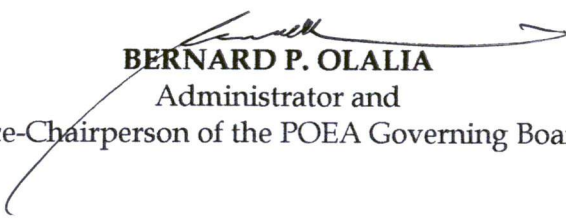
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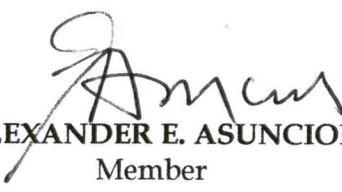
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