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GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO.

Series of 2019

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10022 on the termination or ban on deployment provides that "notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 hereof, in pursuit of the national interest or when public welfare so requires, the POEA Governing Board, after consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, may, at any time, terminate or impose a ban on the deployment of migrant workers";

WHEREAS, the POEA Governing Board issued Governing Board Resolution No. 8, Series of 2018 on the imposition of the total deployment ban on the processing and deployment of newly hired workers as well as crew change and shore leave of Filipino seafarers to Libya and allowing the processing and deployment of returning workers under specified skill categories subject to submission of required documents;

WHEREAS, after the issuance of the subject POEA Governing Board Resolution, the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) received a letter dated November 23, 2018 from the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), which was indorsed by DOLE Acting Secretary through a Memorandum dated November 28, 2018 to the POEA Administrator, recommending further exemptions to the labor deployment ban in Libya under Alert Level III, provided that the specified conditions are present;

- 1. The OFWs' salaries in US Dollars or Euro and not in Libyan Dinars which salaries are remitted directly to the workers' bank account outside Libya;
- 2. The employers of the OFWs have issued an undertaking that they are solidarily liable for delayed and/or unpaid salaries and benefits, and will evacuate them during contingencies and/or emergencies;
- 3. The OFWs are directly employed (not contracted/outsourced or sub contracted) by reputable national companies under the National Oil Corporation that have proven track record of securing and evacuating their workers in case of contingencies and/or emergencies; and
- 4. The nature of the work of the OFWs will not require them to be sent to work in remote oil, gas and/or water fields in the interior desert expanses of Libya where risk of kidnapping and abduction is high.

WHEREAS, the POEA Governing Board in an executive meeting held on December 03, 2018 agreed to implement the proposed additional guidelines and include the Affidavit of Undertaking as additional document to be submitted by the OFWs by securing a certification from their respective employers indicating that the required conditions are present;

WHEREAS, the POEA wrote to the DFA on December 27, 2018, forwarding the appeal of Overseas Filipino Workers Organization - Benghazi (OFWO-B), specifically for professionals such as engineers, company workers, nurses and teachers for inclusion in the travel ban exemption to Libya;

WHEREAS, DFA Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. wrote to the DOLE Secretary on January 10, 2019, informing that DFA, with the concurrence of the National Security Council, has lowered the Crisis Alert Level in Libya from Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation Phase) to Level 2 (Restriction Phase);

WHEREAS, the POEA Governing Board issued Governing Board Resolution No. 01, Series of 2019 to allow the processing and deployment of all Balik-Manggagawa to Libya;

WHEREAS, the DFA issued a News Bulletin dated 08 April 2019 raising the Alert Level in Libya from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 3 which urged Filipinos in Tripoli and nearby areas to consider getting themselves and their dependents be repatriated to avoid getting caught in the middle of ongoing clashes between rival factions. In the raising the Alert Level from Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase) to Alert Level 3 (Voluntary Repatriation), the DFA cited its obligation to ensure the safety and security of all Filipino nationals overseas. Further, in the said News Bulletin, the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli gave the recommendation to raise the Alert Level following the escalation of the fighting that included the shelling of residential areas in the outskirts of the capital.

WHEREAS, Alert Level III will cover Tripoli and areas within a 100-kilometer radius of the capital as follows:

To the East

- 1. Tajoura
- 2. Ghot Romman
- 3. Qaraboli
- 4. Qasr Khiyar

To the South

- 1. Esbea
- 2. Tarhuna
- 3. Bani Waled
- 4. Gharyan

To the West

- 1. Aziziya
- 2. Warshifana
- Zawia
- 4. Surman
- 5. Sabratha

WHEREAS, with the declaration, the Department said travel to Libya by Filipinos working in the said areas will not be allowed until the situation in the country stabilizes and the alert level is lowered back to Alert Level II. The Department likewise said that Filipinos in areas near the fighting should move to safer areas or request the Embassy for assistance in their repatriation before the fighting intensifies.

CONTROPLED AND DISSEMINATED BY CROON 12 APR 2019

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NOW THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, **RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, after consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, hereby imposes a deployment ban on the processing and deployment of all OFWs, including crew change and shore leave of Filipino seafarers in Tripoli and areas within the 100-kilometer radius of the capital identified in the DFA Bulletin.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase) shall remain in place in other areas of Libya not included in the DFA Bulletin.

For immediate compliance.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 10th day of April 2019.

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

Private Sector Representative

ALEXANDER E. ASUNCION

Member

Landbased Sector Representative

FELIX M. OCA

Member

Seabased Sector Representative

BY CRD ON 12 APR 2019