



Philippine  
Overseas  
Employment  
Administration

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Labor and Employment  
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**GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 07**  
Series of 2020

**WHEREAS**, under Section 6 of the implementing rules of Republic Act 10022, the POEA Governing Board, after consultation with the DFA, may, at any time, terminate or impose a ban on the deployment of migrant workers;

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) after consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) issued Administrative Order No. 25, Series of 2018 dated 19 January 2018 directing the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to suspend the processing of Overseas Employment Certificates (OEC) for deployment in Kuwait pending the investigation of the cause of deaths of the following Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Kuwait, namely: **Liezl Truz Hukdong, Vanessa Karissha L. Esguerra, Maria Fe Saliling Librada, Arlene Castillo Manzano, Devine Riche Encarnacion, Patrick Sunga and Mira Luna Juntilla;**

**WHEREAS**, on 12 February 2018, pursuant to the directive of the President of the Philippines, the DOLE Secretary further issued Administrative Order No. 54, Series of 2018, enforcing a total ban on the deployment of all Overseas Filipino Workers to Kuwait in pursuit of national interest and with the advent of the series of reports involving abuse and death of OFWs in Kuwait and the most recent is that of Joanna Daniela Demafelis, a domestic worker;

**WHEREAS**, on 14 February 2018, DOLE issued Administrative Order No. 54-A, Series of 2018 providing guidelines on the deployment ban pursuant to Administrative Order No. 54, Series of 2018;

**WHEREAS**, the POEA issued Governing Board Resolution (GBR) No. 1, Series of 2018 on 14 February 2018 adopting the abovementioned DOLE Administrative Orders and effecting a deployment ban for newly-hired Filipino workers for overseas employment in Kuwait. The ban does not include balik-manggagawa/returning Filipino workers and seafarers transiting through or boarding in Kuwait to join their principals;

**WHEREAS**, on 25 May 2018, as a result of the Agreement on Employment of Domestic Workers with the State of Kuwait signed by then DFA Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano on 11 May 2018, and the normalization of ties with the said country, the POEA lifted the deployment ban in Kuwait through Governing Board Resolution No. 2, Series of 2018 and resumed the processing and deployment thereto of all newly-hired Filipino workers to include professionals, seafarers, skilled, semi-skilled and domestic workers;

**WHEREAS**, the recently signed DOLE Administrative Order No. 553, Series of 2019 dated 16 December 2019 directed the POEA and all the Philippine Overseas Labor

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PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Administrative Branch  
Central Records Division  
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BY: MARTIN J. REYES III TIME: 8:20

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Offices (POLOs) in the Middle East to implement measures to further improve protection of all vulnerable OFWs, domestic workers included, due to increasing number of welfare cases and labor issues among Filipino workers in the Middle East;

**WHEREAS**, with the recent reported cases of maltreatment and deaths involving OFWs in Kuwait, specifically the death of OFW Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende, the DOLE Secretary, after consulting DFA Secretary Teodoro T. Locsin Jr. and Undersecretary Brigido J. Dulay, issued a memorandum dated 02 January 2020 to POEA to immediately convene the Governing Board for the immediate issuance of a partial deployment ban involving Visa 20 (domestic workers) new hires and balik-manggagawa. The said memorandum also instructed the POEA to include a moratorium on the processing and verification of individual contracts and additional Job Order (JO) for the same category of workers;

**WHEREAS**, based on the statement of Presidential Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo, the President is relying on the recommendation of the Secretary of Labor, whether to impose a partial or total ban on the deployment of workers to Kuwait;

**WHEREAS**, adopting the said memorandum, the POEA issued on 03 January 2020 Governing Board Resolution No. 01, imposing a deployment ban for newly-hired domestic workers or household service workers to Kuwait and a moratorium of verification, accreditation and processing of individual contracts and additional Job Order (JO) for the same category of workers;

**WHEREAS**, based on the autopsy report of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on the death of Ms. Jeanelyn Villavende, the OFW was sexually abused and brutally murdered, which is contrary to the inadequate autopsy report of the Kuwait Ministry of Health and upon proper determination that the ban to be imposed should be a total ban on the deployment of domestic or household service workers, semi-skilled workers, skilled workers and professionals, except for the skilled workers and professionals who are categorized as balik-manggagawa, and those who will be exempted by the DOLE Secretary; thus, the DOLE Secretary directed the POEA to impose a total ban on the deployment of above-enumerated workers bound for the said country;

**WHEREAS**, based on the above report, the Secretary of Labor informed President Rodrigo R. Duterte on the imposition of a total deployment ban of Overseas Filipino Workers to Kuwait through the issuance of POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 04 dated 15 January 2020. Skilled workers and professionals who are categorized as balik-manggagawa were exempted from the ban;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the approval by the Kuwait and Philippine governments of a harmonized employment contract for Filipino domestic workers or household service workers in Kuwait on 02 - 03 February 2020 during the PH-Kuwait Joint Committee Meeting held in Kuwait, and after due consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the members of the POEA Governing Board through Governing Board Resolution No. 6, Series of 2020 lifted the ban on the processing and deployment

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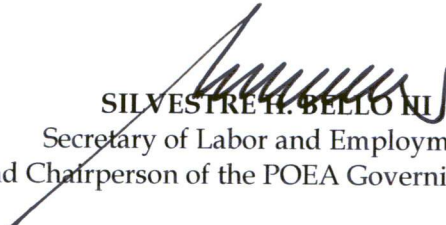
of overseas Filipino workers to Kuwait, except newly-hired and returning domestic workers or household service workers;

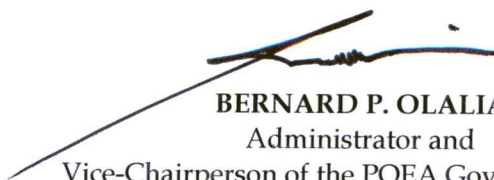
**WHEREAS**, after due consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and with the filing of appropriate charges against the perpetrators of OFW Jeanelyn Villavende in a Kuwait court, the Governing Board of the POEA unanimously approved the lifting of the remaining ban in Kuwait with respect to the deployment of household service workers.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the POEA Governing Board in a meeting duly convened, **RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to lift the deployment ban in Kuwait and to resume the processing and deployment of all remaining categories of domestic workers or household service workers.


For immediate compliance.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

  
**SILVESTRE H. BELLO NI**  
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

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