

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov't offers alternative jobs and livelihood to OFWs repatriated from Lebanon

The government is giving Filipino workers repatriated from war-torn Lebanon options to get other jobs or means of livelihood.

Labor Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the repatriated workers may choose to work again in another country other than Lebanon, be employed locally, or avail of the livelihood assistance packages offered by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Brion has ordered the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to put up a special registry and referral system for workers who came home from Lebanon.

Brion said an association of recruitment agencies deploying workers to Lebanon has volunteered to re-deploy the affected workers to other countries like Kuwait, Jordan, Cyprus, Qatar, Syria, Bahrain, UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia. The members of the association will not collect placement and service fees from the workers and will also provide them free food and accommodation while waiting for the completion of their travel documents for their re-deployment. The group will also assist workers who came to Manila on "one-way" travel document in getting new passports. The applicants will be referred to two employers in different countries.

For workers who opt to work again in the country, Brion said the Bureau of Local Employment shall refer them to local companies for possible job placement.

Repatriated workers who opt for livelihood assistance shall undergo livelihood and entrepreneurship training, or business and investment counseling at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will be giving scholarship and training coupons worth P5,000.00 each. The repatriated workers shall undergo skills assessment and shall be given National Certificate of Competency.

Registration forms are available at the airport offices of POEA and OWWA starting July 31, 2006. ##