



NEWS RELEASE

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POEA: Employers should pay for UAE work visa

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz yesterday said employers in the United Arab Emirates should pay for the work visa issued to foreign workers even as she warned Filipino workers not to buy visas from middlemen in Dubai or agents in the Philippines.

Baldoz said UAE Labour Minister Dr. Al Kaabi has issued a warning to companies not to collect money from employees for issuing a visa saying that companies doing so will be heavily penalized and will be asked to close down their operations.

In his warning, Dr Al Kaabi said it is illegal on the part of the company to demand money from the employee for visa charges.

Al Kaabi said the labor ministry will initiate strict actions against companies found violating labor laws and called upon foreign workers to lodge a complaint with the labor ministry against the company.

Baldoz said without an employment contract, a visa is no guarantee for a job in UAE adding that agents here and Dubai are selling visas to workers in the Philippines even before they land in the UAE.

Baldoz said the Philippine government is ready to sign a memorandum of understanding with UAE in order to prevent middlemen or agents from collecting money from poor workers for their visa.

Baldoz also asked Filipino jobseekers not to leave the country for work abroad using tourist or visit visas.

"Workers without the proper employment documents are more prone to abuses and exploitation by their employers," said Baldoz. **END**