



NEWS RELEASE
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POEA: OFWs should use legal documents to work in Malaysia and the Netherlands

Filipinos who wish to work in Malaysia and the Netherlands should be wary of unscrupulous individuals who promise them jobs in the two countries without legal work documents.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) head Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz aired this warning yesterday as her office continues to receive reports about the scheme of luring unsuspecting applicants by promising them immediate jobs in Malaysia, without passing through POEA and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO).

“This is an old modus operandi. Although I have already issued several warnings in the past, the false promise of an easy way to work abroad in exchange for a big sum of money is still attractive, and unfortunately continues to victimize prospective job applicants,” Baldoz said.

She also warned applicants who wanted to work in the Netherlands not to use tourist visa. Baldoz explained that with the rising number of illegal immigrants in the Netherlands, the Dutch government is expected to implement tougher measures and heavier penalties aimed at deterring efforts by illegal immigrants to stay. Also, Illegal immigrants in the Netherlands do not receive appropriate health care because they are excluded from national health insurance coverage. Employers of illegal workers in the Netherlands will also be punished.

Baldoz said that contract substitution is also rampant in Malaysia. She cited a news report that said Malaysian employers apply for workers for a different sector, illegally shifting them from one work to another. “Recruiters would promise different jobs to lure victims, but they could not tell exactly what they will do when already there,” she added. This is also done, she said, so that employers would only pay a lower levy.

According to Baldoz, the Malaysian government will soon implement a system of providing identification cards with enhanced security features, such as thumbprints, to all foreign workers, as an answer to the various schemes of illegal recruiters. This will help avoid violation of contracts since the cards would be color-coded.

The POEA chief advised applicants who wished to work in Malaysia and the Netherlands to check first with the POEA if the individual or the company promising them jobs is licensed or not. They may call the POEA through its hotline numbers, 722-1144 or 722-1155, or visit the POEA website, www.poea.gov.ph, or go to the nearest POEA regional office, or the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in their locality. For more information on how to avoid illegal recruiters, applicants may also attend the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) for free at the POEA office located on EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. **END**