

PRESS RELEASE

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Illegal recruiters ride the cyberspace

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday warned the public against falling prey to job advertisements found in the internet as it issued helpful tips on how to avoid them.

POEA Deputy Administrator Leo J. Cacdac said there is an uptrend of applicants who use the internet to find jobs that are being victimized by illegal recruiters and scammers.

As a modus operandi, these unscrupulous persons either build cheap looking websites, advertise in legitimate online job search companies or enter several discussion boards or forums that are frequented by overseas Filipino workers to lure their victims, Cacdac said.

As a precautionary measure, Cacdac issued the following pointers to job applicants using the internet:

- Read the entirety of the website. Examine whether the company name and profile appear believable. Check for its company profile or the "about us" page to see its office location and phone numbers.
- Examine the website design plus all links and pages available. A legitimate company would not mind spending a large money to have a website designed beautifully as the same serves as the business's window to the world.
- Take note of the website's invitations to send resumes and application papers through postal mail or drop boxes. Most legitimate websites would like you to fill up your resume online or send them through e-mail.
- Take note of their offers. Most of them offer "too-good-to-be-true" salaries and other job perks including accommodation and bonuses.
- Use search engines (yahoo!, google, etc.) and look for the company name or topics similar to those discussed in the website you have visited.
- Check the domain name of the website to secure additional information.
- Report to the POEA or other law enforcement authorities about any illegal recruitment activities conducted through the internet.

Cacdac said the POEA allows licensed recruitment agencies to advertise their job orders in their respective websites or any online job search companies if the vacancies are covered by manpower requests of accredited employers. ###