



## **NEWS ADVISORY**

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### **Beware of fraudulent UK job offers in the internet**

Filipinos applying for work in the United Kingdom should take extreme caution in dealing with internet job offers in light of recent surge in fraudulent recruitment schemes.

The Labor Office of the Philippine Embassy in London has issued this warning in response to several email requests from Filipino applicants asking for assistance in verifying the authenticity of job offers in the UK.

Filipino applicants must therefore be alert on the modus operandi of these unscrupulous operators, such as the use of fake scanned recruitment documents bearing the name and logo of employers in the UK. In most cases, applicants are being led to believe that they have been accepted for some positions and directed to send money to travel or remittance agencies acting as middle agents.

Of late, even recruitment agencies in the Philippines have not been spared from these overseas employment scams. Some agencies have reported receiving fake manpower requests and employer's registration papers sent to them by these scam internet operators.

Labor Attaché Jun Rasul of the Philippine Embassy has advised all Filipino applicants to carefully look into the internet job offer, verify the authenticity of the documents attached to the email, and consider the potential risks before getting swept away with, or deceived by, false promises or offers.

The following are some of the schemes being used in defrauding the desperate and unwitting applicants:

- Sending "appointment letters" to would-be victims and asking them to send money to travel agencies to arrange for their travel requirements, including visas
- Use of mobile phone or email as a means to contact the alleged employer/agent (scammer) without giving any landline number, or if there is one, the same cannot be contacted
- Designation of unauthorized third parties or agents, and in some cases, alleged UK immigration officers, to process their work permit applications and visas

- Use of fake and scanned recruitment documents such as special power of attorney, recruitment agreement, manpower request, business or registration papers and others
- Use of incorrect employer's address, post code, logo, telephone and fax numbers, and the like
- Use of fake website that purportedly contains the employers information and other details, among others

To avoid being victimized by these scams, applicants must make sure that the jobs actually exist by checking on the website of the employers, its complete address, post code and contact details through search engines like Google, Yahoo!, etc. Job seekers must always be skeptical of internet employment offers that appear to be "too good to be true", such as huge salary offer, free accommodation and food, free use of amenities, and not to deal with employers with no verifiable contact details.

It is also important to note that as a rule, UK employers do not ask for any money or payment from applicants to secure a job, including expenses for the work permit and visa applications. Moreover, applicants must require the employer to send their employment contracts to the Labor Office of the Philippine Embassy in London for the required verification and authentication.

Filipino applicants are also advised to seek assistance from the POEA and check the website of the British Embassy regarding the proliferation of fraudulent job recruitment through the internet.

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