



NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2007

Beware of e-mail employment scams

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration warns job applicants on the proliferation of e-mail messages offering high-paying overseas jobs.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said several job applicants reported that they received unsolicited e-mail messages from a "multinational company" through a seemingly legitimate e-mail account congratulating them for being selected for a specific job. The e-mail contains details about the "hiring company", the positions needed, and a very enticing compensation package. The e-mail further states the company received a copy of the resume of the applicant from a "resume bank" or job site of their accredited companies in the Philippines.

The applicants said that when they expressed interest in the job offer, the company required them to undergo a seminar/training for a fee. They were also asked to pay for reservation, OWWA membership, taxes, and insurance through courier service. The applicants paid for the required fees and only realized they were swindled when the company stopped communicating with them.

Baldoz said because transactions in the internet are virtually unrestricted and impersonal, illegal recruiters are more likely to prey on individuals in search of employment overseas through the web.

Baldoz cautions recipients of e-mail job offers to verify the authenticity of the company, the website, as well as the telephone numbers before paying any money. "Most likely, the 'company' does not exist and the job offer a hoax when it uses free e-mail account and the telephone numbers provided are not accessible," Baldoz added. ###