



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **POEA warns immigration consultants, travel agencies**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday warned immigration consultants and travel agencies against enticing job applicants to avail of their services by offering overseas job opportunities.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said that under RA 8042, offering overseas employment in the guise of visa assistance without the necessary license or authority from the POEA constitutes illegal recruitment.

POEA Memorandum Circular No. 10, series of 2003 regulates the participation of foreign and local immigration consultancy agencies in the recruitment and placement of overseas Filipino workers. Immigration consultants are required to obtain a license from the POEA before they may engage in recruitment and placement activities, regardless of the visa under which deployment shall be made.

Travel agencies are also not allowed to engage in the recruitment and placement of Filipino workers.

Baldoz said some travel agencies include in their tour packages "the opportunity to hunt for jobs" in the course of their travel abroad particularly to Europe, USA, Australia and Dubai.

The DFA reported recently that Australian immigration detained a group of Filipino tourists after discovering that the said travelers had intentions that appeared to be inconsistent with the conditions of their visa.

Baldoz said travel and immigration consultancy agencies will be closed down and the owners will be prosecuted if found illegally recruiting overseas Filipino workers. ###