



NEWS RELEASE

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Mother and daughter abandoned by recruiters in China

A Filipina mother and her daughter believed they will have better lives teaching in China but instead ended up broke, jobless, and abandoned.

The two women, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, were among the victims of illegal recruitment who were promised employment in China as teachers or factory workers and are now stranded in the Philippine General Consulate in Guangzhou.

Maria Cristina Miel and her daughter Michelle alleged that they were recruited by Ar-Zel Management Services, Inc., an agency with license from the POEA but without job orders for teachers in China.

The women said they signed their "employment contracts" after being informed by Rodolfo Arceo and Joven Serdeniola, alleged employees of Ar-Zel Management Services that they were accepted to teach in a Chinese school for two years. They paid placement fees of P130,000 each.

The victims said they were able to find temporary work as teachers but were terminated because the school cannot secure work visas for them. According to DFA, China really needs English teachers but not all schools are authorized by the Chinese government to hire foreigners.

Another victim, Lorna Coloquit, recounted that Estela Feria of Ar-Zel Manpower promised her employment as factory worker in China but was not accepted by the supposed employer. She subsequently got a job as a substitute teacher but was also dismissed because of lack of work visa.

The victims said their agents in China abandoned them after collecting their passports and little money supposedly for the processing of their work visa.

The DFA reported a number of Filipinos are in legal trouble in China for illegal work or overstaying. Most of the cases of contract breaches and illegal recruitment involve unauthorized schools and fly-by-night recruitment agencies.

The POEA is currently investigating Ar-Zel Manpower Services, Inc. for possible violation of POEA rules and regulations on recruitment and deployment of overseas Filipino workers.

In a related development, the POEA revealed another illegal recruitment ploy in the internet enticing job applicants to work as a caregiver in the United Kingdom using student visa. The recruiter sends an e-mail to their target victims inviting them to a Makati office supposedly for a one-on-one interview. The applicants are then asked to pay US625.00 processing or consultancy fee upon "passing the interview".

The "tuition" costs 2,750 pounds, payable in options of 750 pounds after passing the interview and the balance to be deducted in UK, or pay the whole amount and be guaranteed a 2-year multi-entry entry student visa.

The POEA said such recruitment activity is illegal and is inviting victims of this recruitment scheme to file formal complaints with the Legal Assistance Division. ###