



NEWS RELEASE

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POEA all set for influx of returning OFWs this Christmas season

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is undergoing preparation to accommodate the expected arrival of thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) returning this Christmas Holiday Season.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the POEA is opening more counters in addition to the existing counters in its Balik-Manggagawa Processing Center in Ortigas for the processing of documents of Workers-on-Leave (WOL) or Balik-Manggagawa (BMs).

Additional evaluators , assessors and cashiers from POEA, OWWA and PhilHealth shall be posted in said additional new counters.

A worker-on-Leave or Balik-Manggagawa refers to an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) who is on a vacation or on leave and is returning to the same employer.

The returning workers may also have their documents processed at the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLO) in their respective worksites before they fly back to the Philippines or the POEA regional offices. The BM/WOL shall submit a valid passport, re-entry visa, work permit, or any equivalent document and proof that the worker is returning to the same employer to the processing centers. Household Service Workers (HSWs) from Singapore, however, shall present a copy of their latest employment contract duly verified by the POLO in Singapore.

Cabin crew/ flight attendants, offshore workers and other work classification with frequent vacations may avail of the Multiple Travel Exit Clearance (MTEC). MTEC is a set of two or more clearances issued to OFWs for use as an exit document within a period of twelve months from date of issuance. It allows the OFW who exit from the Philippines more than once in a period of 12 months to secure his exit clearance on a one- time basis.

The fees that a worker-on-leave shall pay to register and secure an e-receipt/ Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) are PhP 100.00 for POEA processing Fee, PhP 900.00 for PhilHealth coverage and PhP 2,275.00 for OWWA membership contribution.

A worker-on-Leave with valid OWWA membership and PhilHealth coverage shall only pay PhP 100.00 for POEA processing fee.

The e-receipt , OEC and MTEC serves as the OFW's travel exit clearance and exemptions from payment of travel tax and airport terminal fee. The Overseas Employment Certificate or e-receipt is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance.

Copies of the e-receipt or OEC shall be presented to the airline for ticketing, POEA Labor Assistance Center (LAC) for validation and Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) counter at the airport before departure.

The POEA has offices in San Fernando City La Union; Baguio City; Clark, Angeles City; Calamba City; Legaspi City; Tacloban City; Bacolod City; Iloilo city; Cebu city; Cagayan de Oro City; Zamboanga city; Davao city and Cotabato city. Returning OFWs may also avail of the Balik-Manggagawa exit clearance delivery system thru Teleserv and Multiple Travel Exit Clearance (MTEC) at the POEA main office.

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