



NEWS RELEASE

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POEA Governing Board policies protect OFWs

The POEA Governing Board, chaired by Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, has issued policies on overseas employment in the form of board resolutions mainly to protect the interests of overseas Filipino workers.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the POEA Governing Board has so far been consistent in its policies directed at improving the conditions of our OFWs.

Baldoz cited the policy on Filipino household service workers, which was aimed to upgrade their skills, salaries, and work environment.

“We received a lot of flak over the policy but we remained firm on our decision. We are now reaping the fruits of that decision”, Baldoz said.

A similar resolution has been issued by the Board to cover Name-Hired workers. These are workers who secured their employment directly and without the intervention and assistance of licensed agencies. In the absence of these agencies which can be held jointly and solidarily liable with foreign employers for contract violations on-site, the Board has required foreign employers to secure a repatriation and performance bond for their Filipino workers before they are allowed to leave for overseas employment. The repatriation bond in the amount of US\$5,000.00 will shoulder the cost of repatriating our workers while the performance bond equivalent to the worker’s three months salary will answer for unpaid wages. In addition, employers are required to provide them medical insurance.

The POEA Governing Board has also prohibited the collection of placement fees from our workers bound for the following provinces in Canada: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta. These

provinces require foreign employers to shoulder all the cost of recruitment.

To facilitate action on complaints by our workers on-site, the Governing Board has directed Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) to receive complaints by overseas Filipino workers pertaining to violations of POEA rules and regulations such as excessive placement fee collection, contract substitution and breach of contract.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the POEA Board issued the resolution to provide on-site remedies to OFWs who have complaints against their employer or the recruitment agency which deployed them.

The Board recognized that complainants or witnesses in docketed POEA cases who have been deployed to work overseas should have a mechanism to provide testimony in the said cases.

The POEA Governing Board also provided incentives for victims and witnesses of illegal recruitment who are willing to participate in the prosecution of illegal recruitment cases. The incentives include free legal, financial, welfare, and skills training assistance. The Board recognizes the indispensable participation of complainants and their witnesses in the successful prosecution of illegal recruiters.

Finally, in its negotiations with host governments, the POEA is now requiring foreign employers to participate in ensuring the sustainability of providing qualified Filipino workers. These human resource development programs can take the form of scholarships, training/bridging modules to address any gap in the curriculum and donations of equipment and facilities. These will not only help address the brain drain issue but will provide opportunities for our financially hard-up students. ###