



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **POEA warns agencies diverting OFWs to Sri Lanka**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration will prosecute agencies found diverting Filipino workers to Sri Lanka in the guise of deployment to employers in Maldives.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said she recently received reports from the Philippine Honorary consul General in Colombo about Filipinos, mostly physiotherapists, in Sri Lanka who are working without valid contracts.

Honorary Consul General William John Terrence Perera reported that the Filipino workers were brought to Colombo directly from Manila with ore-arranged Sri Lanka residence visas although their documents were processed at POEA for deployment to Maldives.

Baldoz said recruitment agencies and employers found liable for acts of misrepresentation shall be meted with the penalty of suspension or cancellation of license, or shall be blacklisted.

Baldoz said OFWs working in a job or worksite that is different from those indicated in the signed contract are most likely to be subjected to exploitation.

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