



NEWS RELEASE

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Filipino workers illegally entering Jordan are willing victims - POEA

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz yesterday said the POEA is not to blame for the proliferation of Filipino workers illegally entering Jordan.

Baldoz said the workers were willing victims enticed by illegal recruiters to use tourist visas travelling to Jordan or any third country that has no visa policy as transit point. The workers left the country without passing documentation process of the POEA.

Illegal recruiters also promise their victims sure employment in Asean countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, and Hong Kong where travel visa is not required among the citizens of its members.

As part of its information campaign, the POEA has consistently warned the public of the disadvantage of leaving as tourists to work overseas because they can be prone to abuse by unscrupulous recruiters and employers.

Some recruiters also lure their victims by offering jobs in countries like Dubai, China, United Kingdom, and other European countries using tourist visas but with the promise of conversion to work visa upon arrival in the said countries, Baldoz added.

Lawyer Melencio “Batas” Mauricio put the blame on government offices like POEA, OWWA, and DFA for the growing number of Filipinos illegally entering Jordan.

“We have no police power to stop Filipino travelers at the airport on mere suspicion that they are actually leaving to work in another country. Our mandate is to document legally-hired OFWs under POEA rules so they can leave as workers and without hassle”, Baldoz said.

The POEA has strengthened its anti-illegal recruitment campaign and education program, and had sought the cooperation of other government agencies like the NBI, PNP-CIDG, DOJ, BI and local government units.

Baldoz said the POEA had signed memorandum of agreements with local government units which call for active participation of the concerned local government authorities in information dissemination, surveillance and investigation work, targeting establishments and entities suspected of engaging in illegal recruitment activities.

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