



NEWS RELEASE

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China purges illegal foreign workers

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili said the provincial government of Guangdong in China is cracking down on illegal foreigners including undocumented Filipino workers, as she reiterated the government's warning that applicants must be cautious of offers to work in China as teachers and domestic helpers.

Manalili said the Philippine Consulate in Guangzhou reported that Guangdong is now cracking down on all illegal foreign workers, particularly house maids or domestic helpers employed by local families.

"We received reports that many Filipinos went to China supposedly to work as domestic helpers as promised by their recruiter, which in reality is not allowed by the Chinese government", Manalili said.

The DFA has previously clarified that China prohibits foreign nationals from doing manual labor such as those of nannies and domestic helpers. Employment of domestic helpers is limited only to Chinese nationals. Foreigners found working illegally as maids face deportation.

Manalili also warned applicants on dubious employment offers to work in China, supposedly for English language teaching positions, especially those found in the internet.

While there is a demand for teachers in China, not all schools are allowed to hire foreign instructors. Some Filipinos enter China as teachers in order to circumvent restrictions on hiring foreign workers, but actually intend to work as maids.

As a result of the crackdown, the Philippine Consulate reported that it has already received numerous requests for financial and repatriation assistance from Filipinos who have expired visa. Guangzhou estimated that at least a thousand Filipinos are illegally working in Shenzhen alone.

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