



**Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration**

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NEWS RELEASE
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POEA: Beware of recruitment agencies with cancelled or suspended licenses

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration advises the public to be wary of recruitment agencies with cancelled or suspended licenses that are still actively recruiting for overseas jobs.

Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili reported that POEA has cancelled the licenses of 454 recruitment agencies since the start of its operations and placed 44 others under preventive suspension. For 2008 and the first six months of 2009 alone, the POEA cancelled 76 licenses and suspended or fined 57 agencies as a result of recruitment violations.

Manalili said the licenses of the agencies were either cancelled or suspended due to the charging of placement fees that were more than the allowable amounts or the commission of serious recruitment offenses. The recruitment violations include the deployment of underage workers, misrepresentation, recruitment of workers for jobs that expose them to public health hazards or immorality or those that trample upon the dignity of the Republic of the Philippines, unauthorized transfer or change of ownership; and the charging or collection of placement fees even while the host countries prohibit such practice.

Agencies undergoing investigation for serious recruitment violations were placed under preventive suspension, thus barring them from recruiting workers while their cases are being heard. Agencies serving the penalty of suspension are also prohibited from recruiting workers.

Manalili alerted job applicants to check out the status of their recruitment agencies for their own protection by visiting the POEA website, www.poea.gov.ph, or by calling POEA hotlines 722-1155 / 722-1144 or through Globe SMS at POEA TXT 2917 and report to POEA those that are still recruiting despite the suspension or cancellation of their licenses.