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## Returning overseas workers encouraged to process papers at POEA regional offices, POLOs

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) advises all returning Overseas Filipino Workers who want to file home leaves from abroad or who are planning to return to their countries of employment any time soon that they can also process their papers directly with the local POEA offices in their respective regions, or from the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) in the countries where they are employed.

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili stated that the "Balik Manggagawa Program was envisioned, and is being implemented, to provide greater and more convenient access to POEA services through local POEA offices in the various regions and the POLOs abroad. This way, it is easier for our OFWS to come home, or return to their places of work abroad."

She identified the processing centers as POEA Regional Centers, Regional Extension Units and satellite offices in the various regions, POEA-deputized OWWA Regional Offices and Units, POLOs in the various Philippine embassies and consulates abroad.

Manalili said that valid passports, working permits and other relevant documents can all be verified and processed at the above mentioned offices. By taking advantage of these facilities, OFWS not only have their needs and concerns addressed more swiftly, they also help decongest the Balik Manggagawa Processing Center at the main office at Ortigas, thereby allowing us to render more varied services," Manalili added.

For more details about the Balik Manggagawa program, call 02-721-0785/724-6342 or visit www.poea.gov.ph, or email balikmanggagawa@poea.gov.ph.