

NEWS RELEASE  
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## POEA ADMIN MANALILI STRESSES NEED FOR EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS IN ALL OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili urged all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to make sure they have in their possession copies of their passports and employment contracts before they set off for overseas work.

These documents are vital sources of information that will aid our OFWs who seek assistance in case they encounter problems during their employment abroad, Manalili said. They have to keep copies of these travel documents in their personal belongings before leaving the country and another set for their relatives or next-of-kin, she added.

The POEA head cited a report from the Philippine Consulate in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that most cases of domestic helpers who have been victims of abuse by their employers have no copies of their employment contracts and passports. This has become a common occurrence because Saudi employers take hold of their original passport immediately upon their arrival in the Kingdom, while some unscrupulous recruitment agencies do not give workers copies of their employment contract, she explained.

Other documents such as the *iqama*, or residence permit, should also be kept properly, the POEA chief warned. Its absence may result in the worker's apprehension by local authorities, she explained.

