



NEWS RELEASE

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Government lifts ban on deployment of *au pairs*

After 13-years, the ban on recruitment and deployment of *au pairs* to selected European countries is finally lifted.

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili said the Department of Foreign Affairs imposed a ban on the deployment of Filipina *au pairs* to Europe in 1997 because of the reported maltreatment of *au pairs* such as unfair compensation, excessive working hours, discrimination and sexual assault.

Manalili said the POEA Governing Board has issued three separate resolutions this year, allowing the deployment of *au pairs* to Switzerland, Norway and Denmark after these countries have guaranteed protection for them and agreed to observe the requirements of the Philippine government on the deployment of *au pairs*.

Au pair is a French term which means "on par" or "equal to", denoting living on an equal basis in a reciprocal, caring relationship with the host family and the children.

Under the POEA guidelines, a Filipino *au pair* should be between 18 and 30 years of age, unmarried and without any children, placed under a cultural exchange agreement with the host family for a maximum stay of two years for the purpose of immersion in cultural and language training.

During the employment, the *au pair* should be enrolled in a school to learn the language of the host country and shall live with the host family and treated on an equal basis with the members of the family.

"The Filipino *au pair* should be given pocket money, and share in child care or light household chores and other responsibilities previously agreed upon in a contract between the *au pair* and the host family," Manalili emphasized.

Manalili said the employer shall pay the cost of hiring a Filipino *au pair* which consists of visa fee, air fare, POEA processing fee, OWWA membership contribution, and cost of training if required by the employer. The *au pair* shall pay for her passport, NBI clearance, birth certificate, medical tests, Philhealth insurance, and other personal documents.

Manalili added that deployment of *au pairs* to Switzerland can only be through recruitment entities authorized by the Swiss Federal Office of Migration. Filipino *au pairs* bound for Norway and Denmark shall be documented by the POEA as name hires. XXX