

News Release  
26 November 2010

Vice President Jejomar Binay announced today the suspension for 60 days the implementation of the required certification of host countries for the deployment of Filipino workers overseas.

As Presidential Adviser for Overseas Filipino Worker Concerns, Binay said that under Republic Act 10022, the new law on migrant workers, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has to issue certification whether host countries meet the criteria set by the law for deployment of OFWs. These criteria relate to whether the destination country is a signatory or ratifier of multilateral conventions, declarations, or resolutions or concluded bilateral agreement or arrangement that promote and protect the rights and welfare of migrant workers, Binay added.

Starting November 24, 2010, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration will continue to process and deploy workers even without the DFA certification. In a meeting of the POEA Governing Board which was attended by Binay last week, both the DFA and the DOLE have agreed to extend the 90-day and 120-day certification periods to give ample time to assess the compliance of the host countries to the requirement of the law.

In a related development, Binay urged the landbased recruitment agencies to seek the help of the Legislature or the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to allow an equivalent insurance scheme for their workers, similar to the seabased sector. RA 10022 allows insurance coverage for seafarers that are issued by foreign insurance companies provided that all the risks such as accidental death, natural death, permanent total disablement, repatriation costs, and others are included.