



News Release  
January 21, 2014

## **Visit visas are for tourists, work visas are for workers**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration warned Filipinos wanting overseas jobs to make sure they have approved work permit or work visa before they leave the country.

Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac said foreign workers without the proper employment document cannot work legally in any country and are constant target of crackdowns on illegal expatriates. They are also more prone to abuse and exploitation by employers.

Cacdac said applicants should not be easily swayed by illegal recruiters and traffickers who promise immediate deployment to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and other Asean countries where visit visa is not a prior requirement from citizens of its members.

Cacdac also advised Filipino workers not to accept job offers if they are to leave using tourist or student visa even with the assurance from the recruiters that they will find employment for them upon arrival in the country of destination.

“The legal way is to obtain an employment contract and employment visa or work permit and submit them to the POEA for processing and issuance of exit clearance,” Cacdac added.

Cacdac reminded job applicants of the new guidelines issued by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation establishing stricter procedure on screening Filipinos leaving as tourist. A traveler found to be misrepresenting the purpose of his or her foreign trip will not be allowed to board the plane. /END