



News Release  
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## Fishermen are seafarers and should not be charged placement fee, POEA rules

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said fishermen are considered seafarers and should not pay placement fee as it cancelled the license of a manning agency for illegal exaction of placement fee from fishermen it deployed to Taiwan fishing vessels.

Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac said Jenar Maritime Incorporated, in two separate cases, was found to have violated Section 1, Rule IV, Part II of the POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Seafarers.

The said Rule specifies that “agencies shall charge from their principals manning fee to cover services rendered in the recruitment and deployment of seafarers. However, manning agencies shall not charge any fee from the seafarers for their recruitment and deployment services”.

Cacdac said that in the first case against Jenar Maritime, the complainant alleged that the agency required him to pay a placement fee of Php75,000.00. With the assistance of an employee of the manning agency, the applicant took a Php75,000.00 loan from a lending company and paid the placement fee.

The complainant also alleged that Jenar maritime required him to make a written statement stating that he did not pay a placement fee to the agency. He said he was forced to write and sign the statement for fear of losing the job and for lack of material time to complain.

He worked as a fisherman in a Taiwanese fishing vessel but requested repatriation after two months complaining of breaches of contract committed by his employer.

In the second case, Jenar Maritime collected Php80,000 from another applicant for fisherman in Taiwan who was also referred to a lending agency. He was also made to write a statement that he did not pay any placement fee from the agency.

Cacdac said charging or accepting directly or indirectly any amount of money, Goods, services, or any fee or bond for any purpose from seafarers carry a penalty of cancellation of license. It also carry the accessory penalty of refund of the fee charged o collected from the seafarer. /end