

Department of Labor and Employment
News Release
30 June 2014

POEA raises deployment ban on Iraqi Kurdistan Region for new hires

After imposing a total ban in the deployment of OFWs to Iraq, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Governing Board (GB) has now temporarily suspended the processing and deployment of newly-hired workers bound for the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

“The POEA Governing Board has decided to suspend, for the meantime, the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region because of the growing threats to the security situation in the said region,” Labor and Employment Secretary and Chairman of the POEA Governing Board Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz announced.

Baldoz said POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 13, Series of 2014, was issued after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) raised the Crisis Alert Level in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region from Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 2 (Restriction Phase).

The said resolution was signed by DOLE Secretary Baldoz; POEA Administrator and Vice Chairman of the Governing Board Hans Leo J. Cacdac; and members Estrelita S. Hizon, Alexander E. Asuncion, Felix M. Oca, and Milagros Isabel A. Cristobal.

“We are strictly monitoring the situation in Iraq and in the Kurdistan Region and we are prepared and ready to respond to any eventualities,” Baldoz said.

POEA records show that in 2013, there are 75 OFWs working in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

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