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## Consultancy firm staff get life term for illegal recruitment

Two employees of an immigration consultancy firm were sentenced to life imprisonment for illegal recruitment in large scale by the Regional Trial Court of Baguio City.

In a Decision, Judge Rose Mary R. Molina-Alim of RTC Branch 3 Baguio City found the two accused, Rodolfo A. Domingo Jr. and Roliza S. Batag, guilty of engaging in the recruitment of overseas Filipino workers without the proper authorization from the POEA.

Domingo and Bantag were employees of Global Consultancy Management Services located at 117 Cresencia Village, Baguio City.

41 complainants, most of them from Baguio City, alleged that the two employees collected from them placement fees amounting to PhP35,000 up to PhP170,000 in consideration of the promised employment as domestic helpers for Canada; butchers, factory workers and civil engineers for Australia; and electronic technicians for South Korea with salaries ranging from PhP60,000 to PhP130,000.

Under Republic Act No. 8042 as amended by Republic Act No. 10022, offering overseas employment in the guise of visa assistance without the necessary license or authority from the POEA constitutes illegal recruitment.

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