

News Release
August 10, 2015

Recruiters for supposed jobs Switzerland and New Zealand arrested

Labor and Employment Secretary Silvester Bello III yesterday directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to assist in the prosecution of two (2) suspected illegal recruiters who were arrested in an entrapment operation by the Anti-Transnational Crime Unit of the Philippine National Police, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG-ATCU) on August 8, 2016.

In his report to Secretary Bello, Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac said the arrest of Wilfredo Liwag David and Jemmalyn Mimis Barlan stemmed from the complaint affidavit filed by twelve (12) overseas job applicants who sought assistance sought POEA's assistance in filing criminal action cases against the illegal recruitment activities of the two suspects and three other cohorts namely Marivel Equio, Mary Ann Nabulay Dulay, and Cecil Yabut.

The applicants alleged that on separate occasions, members of the group recruited and defrauded them of their hard earned money through promises of gainful employment with Kelloggs Brown Root Company (KBR), a corporation based in Switzerland and New Zealand.

The complainants also claimed they were promised and assured jobs such as factory workers and hotel housekeepers with a monthly salary ranging from Php60, 000.00 to Php70, 000.00 or up to 1,500.00 US Dollars. The group promised deployment within 45 days as the positions are with readily available visas

They were not supposed to pay placement fees but they were required to undergo medical examination at God's Way Medical and Diagnostic Clinic in Ermita, Manila for fees ranging from Php3, 500.00 to Php6, 000.00. They were also charged Php500.00 to Php3, 000.00 as registration fees and Php2, 000.00 for their photos.

The POEA Licensing Branch certified that the five suspects, in their personal capacities, were not authorized to recruit workers for overseas employment. Kelloggs Brown Root Company (KBR) was not accredited by the POEA to recruit overseas Filipino workers. Equio, Dulay, and Yabut, remain at large and are hunted down by the police. /END