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POEA lifts Libya deployment ban

Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III and chairperson of the POEA Governing Board yesterday announced the lifting of the ban on deployment of overseas Filipino workers to Libya.

Bello said on recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the POEA Governing Board issued Resolution 16, which lifts the ban after DFA lowered the crisis alert level in Libya from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 2 (restriction phase).

Bello, however, clarified the order applies to returning Filipino workers with existing contracts in Libya and they have to submit documents required by the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli.

The documents are copy of existing contracts certification of salaries and benefits of OFWs; letter from the employer requesting for the return of the OFWs; security and safety guarantee through valid company certification; medical and life insurance coverage; and guarantee of immediate repatriation based on submitted contingency plans.

However, Bello said the deployment ban for newly hired OFWs remains in force until further notice.

On May 30, 2014, the government suspended the processing of documents and deployment of all OFWs bound for Libya due to heightened political unrest and worsening security situation in the North African country.

The POEA Governing Board issued Resolution No. 9 on June 13, 2014, which allowed for the processing and deployment of certain skills categories of returning workers to Libya. On July 22, 2014, the POEA issued Resolution No. 17, allowing deployment of additional skills categories of returning workers. /END