News Release
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Illegal recruiter gets 8 years jail sentence

A regional trial court has sentenced an illegal recruiter to 8 years in jail after finding her guilty of deceiving two Filipina nurses she promised jobs in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Judge Caesar C. Buenagua of RTC Branch 37, Calamba City found Cristina Averion y Ilagan guilty of engaging in the recruitment of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) without proper authorization from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

In a joint affidavit, two complainants in the case alleged that Averion represented herself as an employee of Crosswind International Manpower Services and recruited them to work as nurses in Dubai with a salary of Php30,000 a month.

One complainant alleged that Averion collected from her Php35,000 supposedly as visa fee, Php10,000 for airfare to Dubai, and Php3,500 for medical examination. The other complainant said she paid Averion Php35,000 as initial payment for placement fee, Php3,500 for medical examination, and Php6,200 for OWWA membership and PhilHealth insurance.

After six months and despite payment of fees, however, Averion failed to deploy the complainants for their supposed jobs in Dubai.

Upon verification with the POEA, the complainants found out the license of Crosswind International Manpower Services was already cancelled and the name of Averion was not included in the recruitment agency's list of officers and staff.

The nurses filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) in Laguna. A CIDG team conducted an entrapment operation and subsequently arrested Averion.

Aside from the penalty of 8 years imprisonment, Judge Buenagua also ordered Averion to pay a fine of Php250,000 and to indemnify the two complainants the amount of Php35,000 and Php75,000 respectively. /END