

NEWS ADVISORY
10 November 2017

DOLE suspends issuance of OECs

Starting November 13, 2017, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration will not process new application for overseas employment certificates of land-based overseas Filipino workers (new hires) including direct hire workers.

DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III ordered the suspension with the issuance of Department Order No. 185 on November 9, 2017 due to alleged illegal recruitment activities of certain unscrupulous individuals preying on Filipinos desiring to work overseas.

Exempted from the suspension are workers hired by international organizations and members of the diplomatic corps including royal families; seafarers hired by manning agencies; returning workers or *balik-manggagawa*; and workers hired through the Government Placement Branch of the POEA.

Applicants with working visas issued by employers as of 17000 hours, November 12, 2017 shall not be included in the suspension provided that they submit their original visas or stamped passports clearly showing the date on which their visas were issued by the foreign issuing authority. The visa must be accompanied by an English translation together with the official receipt.

The suspension will take effect until December 1, 2017 subject to extension as circumstances may require.

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