

NEWS RELEASE
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POEA issues guidelines on the resumption of the deployment of household service workers to Kuwait

Pursuant to the Agreement on Employment of Domestic Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and government of State of Kuwait signed on May 11, 2018, and Administrative Order No. 254-A, Series of 2018 signed by Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III and in compliance with POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 2, Series of 2018 on the resumption of deployment of HSWs to Kuwait, the POEA has issued Memorandum Circular No. 10, Series of 2018 stipulating the following guidelines:

1. The Philippine recruitment agencies (PRAs) and foreign principals shall only deploy medically-fit and work-ready HSWs for overseas employment:
 - a) Domestic workers free shall from infectious and transferrable diseases, as certified by DOH accredited medical clinics
 - b) HSWs within the allowable age; properly trained in accredited training institutions; and properly certified on household work and received satisfactory orientation on Kuwaiti law, customs, traditions, mores, and values
 - c) Deployed workers who are cognizant of the terms and conditions of their employment contracts and oblige them to strictly observe Kuwaiti laws, morals, ethics and customs while in Kuwait
 - d) Domestic workers with good behavior and without criminal record as certified by the NBI
2. PRAs, including foreign placement agencies (FPAs) and employers are not allowed to collect placement fees or collect other unauthorized fees from the worker
3. Domestic workers shall be allowed access to legal assistance, communication, and dispute settlement mechanisms
4. The employer shall not confiscate the HSWs' passport and other personal identity documents
5. No domestic worker shall be compelled to continue working for any direct employer if she has completed the employment contract

6. Foreign placement agencies hiring HSWs shall put up an escrow deposit in the amount of USD 10,000.00
7. The PRAs and FPAs shall monitor the condition of their workers and shall submit reports of their monitoring to the POEA's Welfare and Employment Office.
8. PRAs with deployment of at least 100 HSWs shall appoint a welfare officer or counsellor in its office to monitor and resolve complaints of HSWs. The name and contact number of the welfare officer shall be furnish to all deployed workers, and the POEA and OWWA assistance centers. The welfare officer shall be accessible 24/7. /END