

## NEWS ADVISORY

5 March 2018

# POEA warns OFWs on misrepresentation

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday warned overseas Filipino workers, specifically first time OFWs, against presenting themselves as returning workers or *balik-manggagawa* when applying for OEC or overseas employment certificate.

The POEA reminded concerned OFWs and recruitment agencies that presenting false information or processing travel documents of newly hired workers as *balik-manggagawa* constitutes reprocessing or misrepresentation which are prohibited under existing laws and regulations on overseas employment. They shall also be criminally liable under Section 6 (b) of Republic Act No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 10022 for furnishing false notice, information or document in relation to overseas employment.

The POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Filipino Workers of 2016 defines a returning worker or *balik-manggagawa* as “an overseas Filipino worker who has served or is serving his/her employment contract and is returning to the same employer and the same job site or returning to the same employer in a new job site. It shall also include an OFW who has started employment with a new employer and is returning to the said employer.”

The registration of returning Overseas Filipino Workers as further defined in the said Rules shall be through Balik-Manggagawa online processing at [BMOnline.ph](http://BMOnline.ph) or by submission of the following documents to the Administration or to the Philippine Overseas Labor Officers (POLOs):

1. Passport valid at least six (6) months from the date of intended departure;
2. Valid and appropriate visa or work permit

3. Certificate of insurance coverage similar to the benefits provided under the mandatory insurance coverage contained in Section 37-A of RA 8042, as amended, at the option of the Overseas Filipino Worker.

For returning Overseas Filipino Workers who are not registered with the Administration or who changed employers on-site, the following additional requirements are required:

1. Proof of existing employment such as payroll slip or valid company identification card
2. Existing employment contract
3. Affidavit stating the circumstances regarding the deployment
4. Certificate of insurance coverage similar to the benefits provided under the mandatory insurance coverage contained in Section 37-A of RA 8042, as amended, at the option of the worker.

OFWs who provide false information in acquiring their *balik-manggagawa* OEC risk being intercepted and prevented from boarding their plane by officers of Travel Control Enforcement Unit of the Bureau of Immigration and the POEA's Labor Assistance Center (LAC) at the international airports. /END