

NEWS RELEASE
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Underage workers rescued from recruiters

A composite team of the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Department of Justice and Department of Social Welfare and Development freed seven (7) minors from a halfway house maintained by a licensed recruitment agency.

The underage workers were recruited from several provinces in Mindanao to work as domestic helpers in the Middle East. They were billeted in a 4-storey residential building located at No. 166 Suerte St, Pasay City while their employment documents are being prepared.

The licensed recruitment agency was found to have been imposed a penalty of suspension of documentary processing by the POEA on September 6, 2018. While under suspension of documentation, the agency cannot deploy overseas workers.

The operatives also arrested Aisa Sailila y Sana; Samera Makot y Ayob and Munera Patag y Tingkungan who admitted as in charge of the accommodation house. They are not included in the list of employees submitted by the agency and are not authorized by the POEA to recruit for overseas employment.

The suspects were brought to the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasay City for inquest proceedings and will be charged for large scale illegal recruitment. A lawyer from POEA's Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch appeared as special counsel for the minor workers who are now in custody of DSWD. /END