

News Release  
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## Online systems benefit OFWs, recruitment agencies

Convenience and speed. These are two of the many benefits overseas Filipino workers and licensed recruitment agencies get from the online services provided by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Administrator Bernard P. Olalia said some 1,268 licensed recruitment and manning agencies now use the POEA's eContracts System which allow the processing of contracts and documentation of their hired workers and seafarers.

Aptly called Landbased e-Contracts System (LBECS) and Seabased e-Contracts System (SBECS), the systems are secured web-based facilities developed for recruitment and manning agencies with valid license for their request for processing (RFP), payment of government fees, submission of contracts and printing of overseas employment certificate (OEC). 807,475 OECs were issued through the eContracts System from January to November 2019.

Licensed recruitment agencies wanting to recruit Filipino workers outside their registered office address have to apply for a Special Recruitment Authority (SRA) or a Letter of Authority (LOA). The POEA have issued 11,006 SRAs and 4,209 LOAs the past 11 months of 2019.

Olalia said that during the same period, some 786,103 land-based applicant workers and 117,795 seafarer applicants have registered with the POEA using the new e-Registration System. The system provide land-based workers and seafarers with unique registration numbers which will link their personal profile to the e-Contract system.

Through BMAOnline.ph, balik-manggagawa or workers on-leave can have their exit clearance in the comfort of their homes and without falling in line at the POEA offices. In the past 11 months, 1,271,553 OFWs were able to secure exemption from overseas employment certificate (OEC) and payment of Php100.00 processing fee while 428,559 workers got their OECs through the online appointment system. As a mandatory requirement, an OFW has to take the online Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) before deployment overseas. Some 778,969 PEOS certificates were awarded to aspiring OFWs in 2019.

The systems and the guidelines and procedure for their proper use are accessible at <https://eservices.poea.gov.ph>. /END