

News Release

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POEA warns jobseekers on online scams

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) advises all Filipino job seekers to be wary of internet related scams which have proliferated in this time of COVID-19 community quarantine.

The POEA have observed that during the lockdown period, there were increased reports of illegal online schemes which include employment scam, phishing, identity theft and cyber cloning. Unscrupulous persons may have taken advantage of peoples' heightened online presence during the quarantine period by targeting unsuspecting jobseekers and licensed recruitment agencies.

Jobseekers are advised to exercise extreme caution in dealing with online job advertisements. Job scams usually involve promise of high paying jobs and other too-good-to-be-true remunerations like free board and lodging, paid vacation leaves and overtime pay. However, the intended victims are required to send money for reservation or processing fee.

Identity theft and cyber cloning are used to imitate the websites, simulate the e-mail addresses or clone the social media accounts of some licensed recruitment agencies and their staff to advertise fake overseas jobs and swindle applicants. Aside from money, phishing scams also trick jobseekers into submitting sensitive and personal information.

Overseas jobseekers are encouraged to always verify job offers through the POEA verification system at the POEA website www.poea.gov.ph or email the POEA Information Center at info@poea.gov.ph.

Likewise, licensed recruitment agencies are also advised to secure their websites, e-mails and social media accounts to ensure security and prevent being used in any bogus online schemes.

The public may report internet related criminal activity to the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACGF) at 8723-0401 loc 5313 or e-mail at pnp.anticybercrimegroup@gmail.com for proper evaluation and investigation.

Also, any suspicious activities pertaining to online illegal recruitment scams can be reported to the POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch Operations and Surveillance Division at poea_airb_osd@yahoo.com or at numbers 8722-1192. ###