



Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Hotlines: 722-1144, 722-1155



News Release

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Affected Kuwait-bound HSWs urged to upgrade skills, look for better opportunities in other countries

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) on Monday encouraged around 10,000 newly-hired household service workers (HSWs) who are affected by the partial deployment ban to Kuwait to meantime look for job opportunities from other countries, or consider upgrading their skills for better opportunities abroad.

POEA Administrator Bernard Olalia said the administration is strictly implementing the partial deployment ban, as directed by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III due to the increasing cases of maltreatment and deaths involving OFWs, particularly the death of Jeanelyn Villanende, who died in the hands of her Kuwaiti employer.

“For the meantime, it is advisable to look for other opportunities from other countries with less welfare cases or avail the program and assistance of DOLE and TESDA in upgrading their skills for better job offers locally or in abroad,” Olalia said.

Among the top skills needed overseas include hotel housekeepers, cleaners and helpers in various establishments, cooks, and other services that are not prone to abuse and maltreatment.

Meanwhile, Olalia clarified that the partial deployment ban covers all newly-hired HSWs to Kuwait and exempts the skilled, professionals, and vacationing workers or the Balik Manggagawa as stated in the POEA Governing Board Resolution 1, Series of 2020 issued on January 3, 2020.

The ban stays or will be lifted based on the findings of the investigations and the provision of justice to Jeanelyn Villavende and her bereaved family.

Kuwait is among the top destinations of OFWs with 47,100 new hires in 2019, of which 41,373 are HSWs.###