

News Release  
January 8, 2020

## POEA allows issuance of exit clearance to OFWs in Libya

The Governing Board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, upon the recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, has allowed the issuance of overseas employment certificate (OEC) or exit clearance to Filipino workers who intend to go home to the Philippines and return to their jobs in Libya on certain conditions.

The Board chaired by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, issued GB Resolution No. 12, Series of 2019, which authorizes the processing and issuance of OECs to Filipinos presently working in Tripoli and other areas within the 100-kilometer radius of the capital, given that they have secured a Certificate of Conditional Exemption from the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli.

The conditional exemption will be based on humanitarian grounds as determined by the DFA, such as the need to travel to the Philippines because of: (1) death or sickness in the immediate family; (2) to accompany and assist member of immediate family for purpose of relocation, school examinations or registration, and medical treatment; (3) to attend urgent banking and financing transactions; and (4) to file court cases or appear in court hearings.

OFWs can also travel to the Philippines and back to Libya on other valid grounds or significant events to be determined by the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli.

To apply for an OEC, returning OFWs must present other documents such as valid passport with appropriate visa issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor of State of Libya, and Contract of Employment verified by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

They must also present their medical and life insurance policy provided by their employer, and contingency plan of their employer to ensure the safety and security of the OFWs and avoid getting caught in the escalating violence in the North African country.

In the meantime, the ban on the processing and deployment of new hires to Libya and workers returning to their former employers remains in effect.

In April 2019, Secretary Bello imposed a total deployment ban of Filipino workers in Libya upon the recommendation of DFA due to the escalating violence in the said country, which threatened the safety and security of an estimated 1,000 Filipino workers. ###