

News Release

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Beware of illegal recruitment schemes via online dating

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) warns Filipino overseas job seekers to disregard job offers from unscrupulous individuals who take advantage of online dating apps and websites for their illegal recruitment activities.

The POEA received reports from individuals who were offered supposed migration and employment in countries such as United States and Canada via online dating apps and websites.

The scammers use fictitious cyber identity or catfishing to contact potential victims in dating apps who have common interest or mutual connections. Once the scammers established an affinity with the victims, they would send offer of migration, including promises of overseas jobs.

The unscrupulous individual would then send fake job contracts and company profiles, and would refer the unsuspecting victims to overseas visa consultancy firms.

While maintaining their supposed romantic interests, the scammer would then demand payments from the victims for the release of visa documents, including supposed airport clearances.

The POEA advises jobseekers to be cautious and ignore job offers from dating apps and to refrain from paying any amount of money to their supposed 'online romantic partners' for overseas employment.

The public is also reminded that a job offer which requires early payment of fees through electronic transfer is a solid indication of a scam.

Overseas jobseekers are advised to always verify overseas job offers through the POEA Verification System at the POEA website (www.poea.gov.ph), or email the POEA Information Center at connect@poea.gov.ph.

The public is also urged to be cautious and immediately report any suspicious recruitment activities to the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch's Operations and Surveillance Division at osd@poea.gov.ph.###