

News Release

June 4, 2021

POEA suspends deployment of healthcare workers

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has issued an advisory suspending anew the deployment of new hire nurses, nursing aides and nurse assistants as the annual deployment ceiling of 5,000 of new hire healthcare workers has been reached.

In December 2020, the POEA Governing Board has issued GB Resolution No. 17 lifting the moratorium or the temporary suspension of deployment of nurses and ordered the POEA to impose an annual deployment ceiling of 5,000 new hire HCWs disaggregated by occupation. As recommended by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), President Rodrigo R. Duterte approved the annual deployment ceiling for health care workers for occupation identified by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as mission critical skills effective January 1, 2021, and until such time that the IATF may decide to increase the deployment ceiling as necessary.

Health care workers who were already issued with their corresponding overseas certificates (OEC) or exit clearance, however, are allowed to depart for their overseas employment.

The DOLE's Mission Critical Skills Technical Working Group (MCS-TWG) continually studies and deliberates upon the issues to come up with policy recommendations for IATF's consideration and approval.

The POEA Governing Board has previously suspended the deployment of health care workers on April 2, 2020. /end