

## News Release

July 28, 2021

# POEA strengthens protection of direct hire OFWs

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has included the interview of applicants in its standard procedure on the evaluation of requests for exemption from the policy on direct hiring to further guarantee the protection and safety of Filipino workers seeking jobs which are considered as potentially vulnerable to exploitation.

Workers who are considered at risk of possible maltreatment include waiter/waitress; wine host/wine hostess; masseuse/massage therapists; spa therapists; food and beverage attendants; hotel attendants; service/maintenance crew, entertainment workers; and agricultural workers.

Such workers are required to undergo an interview by the Pre-Employment Services Office and/or the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch of the POEA upon receipt of the workers' application for clearance and approval of the Administrator at the Direct Hire Assistance Division. The interview may be held through personal appearance or any online platform available to the worker.

The Labor Code of the Philippines prohibits direct hiring of Filipino workers for overseas employment except those to be employed by international organizations, members of diplomatic corps, head of state and government officials with the rank of at least deputy minister and other employers as may be allowed by the Secretary of Labor and Employment. ###