



## **NEWS RELEASE**

January 17, 2022

# **Do not take sides: POEA tells OFWs in Kazakhstan**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) advised Filipino workers in Kazakhstan to remain neutral amid the ongoing unrest prevailing in Almaty and Mangistau regions of the Central Asia country.

In an advisory, the POEA said the Filipino community in Kazakhstan and Moscow to remain calm and avoid participating in any gathering or meeting that concerns the internal conflict in the country.

Protests began on January 2 in western Kazakhstan over a rise in energy prices and spread quickly across the country, with the focus widening to broader economic and political issues. After law enforcement forcibly dispersed peaceful protests in Almaty on January 4, rioters and some protesters attacked security forces and public buildings and looted shops. On January 5, President Kassym-Jomart Tokaev declared a nationwide state of emergency and on January 6 called in troops from the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a regional security organization, to help reestablish security.

The POEA also enjoined them to get in touch with their respective employers and employers or call the Philippine Embassy in Moscow at +7(906)738-2538 in case of emergencies.

/END