



KUWAIT GOVERNMENT GRANTS 45-DAY AMNESTY

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Kuwait has reported that the Kuwait government granted a 45-day Amnesty to all illegal foreign residents, including undocumented OFWs. Interior Minister Sheik Jaber Khaled Al-Sabah announced that the amnesty began on 01 September and would expire on 15 October 2008. He explained that this amnesty had been granted as an initiative of His Highness, the Amir Sheik Sabah Al-Ahmed Al Jaber Al-Sabah, as a humanitarian gesture on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The amnesty has the following features:

- Illegal residents who come to the country on a visit visa but did not have a residency permit can report to any border or port in order to exit and leave the country.
- Those who have lost their respective passports and got new ones or travel documents can report to the immigration authorities with two photos to process their departure. They need to coordinate with the Philippine Embassy so that they could be assisted.
- The parents of newly-born persons who have not been granted residence, must report to the immigration authorities for settlement of their cases or face the prospect of being expelled from the country.
- Those who claim that their passports were illegally confiscated by their employers must get new passports or apply for residence otherwise they will be compelled to leave the country.
- Individuals who have pending claims for unpaid wages and benefits must nonetheless leave the country after designated a third party by special power of attorney or seek legal residence. POLO and the Philippine Embassy shall assist them.

Illegal foreigners who avail of the amnesty may either leave without paying a fine with the option of returning to Kuwait, provided they come legally. Those who decide to stay may legalize their status, upon paying a fine of 2KD (\$7.50) per day of illegal stay. Those who refuse to avail of the amnesty and who will be caught after the expiration of the 45-day amnesty period shall be deported from Kuwait and barred from reentering the country.

*Source: POLO Kuwait
31 August 2008*