



MALAYSIA'S LEGALIZATION PROGRAM FOR IRREGULAR FOREIGN WORKERS

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuala Lumpur reported on the legalization program being implemented by the government of Malaysia. Under the Malaysian Ministry of Home Affairs' rehiring program, irregular foreign workers will be issued valid work permits starting 15 February 2016 up to 15 May 2016.

To better manage the program, the government of Malaysia availed the services of MyEg Services Bhd., a private Malaysian company that developed and established an online facility which will enable employers to register their workers directly and without the intervention of agents.

An estimated two million (2M) irregular foreign workers in Malaysia's service, manufacturing and construction sectors as well as in the agriculture/plantations sector will be covered by the legalization program. The following are qualified to apply under the program:

1. Category A

- a) Workers who have overstayed their visas or with expired work permits working with the same employer and must have worked for a minimum of six (6) months prior to 15 February 2016; and
- b) Workers who have overstayed their visas or with expired work permits working with a different employer. They must have worked for a minimum of six (6) months with the last employer prior to 15 February 2016.

2. Category B

- a) Overstaying tourists with social visit pass which expired before 01 September 2015 and must have worked for a minimum of six (6) months.

According to POLO-Kuala Lumpur, the legalization program is expected to benefit an estimated 45,000 irregular Filipino workers in Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak. The federal government of Malaysia and the state of Sabah has implemented similar amnesty programs in the past for irregular foreign workers.

Source: POLO-Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

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Marketing Branch
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