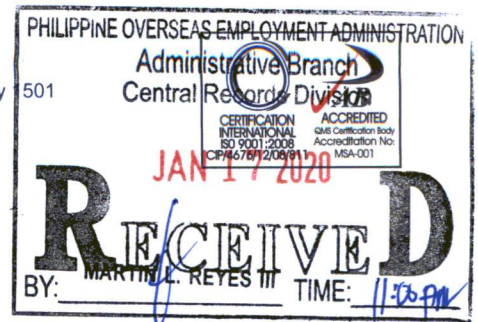




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ADVISORY NO. 06
Series of 2020

TO : RECRUITMENT SCHEME FOR POLAND

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Geneva which has jurisdiction over OFW matters in Poland reported a scheme whereby prospective job applicants for Poland are made to sign contracts in the Philippines which are approved by POEA in good faith to "legalize" their departure from the Philippines. With the contract, recruiters in the Philippines partnering with outsourcing or recruitment agencies in Poland advise the job applicants to obtain a Polish visa in Malaysia since Poland has no consular office in Manila. Reportedly, for exorbitant fees to these recruiters, the job applicants can get a slot for visa appearance in Malaysia. POLO Geneva warned that there is no guarantee of a sure regular job waiting for the applicants in the jobsite.

POLO further warned that the applicants would only know the truth on their job application when they reach Poland and that their POEA - approved contract was only a template for them to sign in order to be able to leave the Philippines.

POLO Geneva also reported that the OFWs pay at least PhP269,000 to their Philippine recruiters with some borrowing money from lending agencies referred by the recruiters at usurious interests. Given this practice, POLO Geneva advised the OFWs not to pay the lending agencies that connived with the recruiters and that it will seek the assistance of Polish authorities to run after these agencies based in Poland.

Moreover, the POLO informed that applicants for work in Poland should make sure that they are dealing directly with an employer since outsourcing is risky. An outsourcing agency only needs £ 1250 to register in Poland.

All prospective job applicants to Poland are thus strongly advised to be wary of the above-described scheme and report such to the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch of the POEA.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

____ January 2020

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BY CRD ON JAN 17 2020