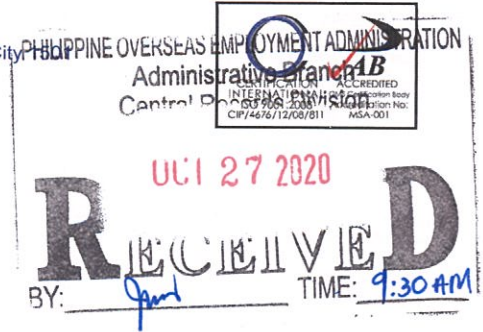




**Philippine
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**Warning on illegal recruitment scams and fake documents
with the resumption of non-essential outbound travel**

With the issuance of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) Resolution No. 79 (series 2020) lifting the restrictions on non-essential outbound travel of Filipinos effective 21 October 2020, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) warns the public on illegal recruitment schemes using fake travel documents and misdeclaration of purpose of overseas travel.

In August and September 2020, the Bureau of Immigration apprehended several individuals at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for using forged travel documents, including visas and overseas employment certificates (OECs). Others have been apprehended for assuming false identities and using fake passports. Upon investigation, the apprehended individuals claim to be traveling as OFWs. The public is warned that possession and use of falsified documents, and assuming aliases and false identities are criminal offenses punishable by imprisonment and fine.

The public is also reminded that while outbound travel restrictions have been relaxed and non-essential travel is now allowed, all Filipinos intending to work overseas must be in possession of the proper travel and overseas employment documents, including work permits/visas, and overseas employment certificates from the POEA. Traveling for overseas employment on a tourist visa is prohibited. Under the tourist to work scheme, applicants are issued tourist visas with a promise of converting said visa into work permits/visas upon arrival in the destination countries. The POEA warns the public about the prevalence of abuse among those who have been promised overseas employment using the tourist to work scheme, with some being arrested in destination countries for working without the required visas or work permits.

For more information visit the Facebook Page of the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch at www.facebook.com/airbranch. The POEA also asks the public to report any suspicious activities on recruitment scams via email to poea_airb_osd@yahoo.com or call the Operations and Surveillance Division at 8722-1192.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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BY CRD ON **OCT 27 2020**