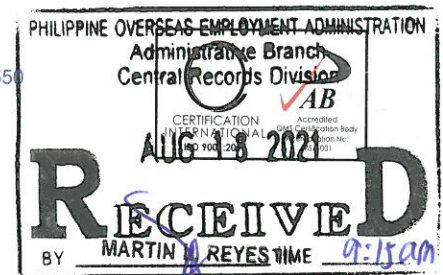




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MIGRANT EXPLOITATION PROTECTION VISA IN NEW ZEALAND

On 1 July 2021, the New Zealand Government launched the new Migrant Exploitation Protection Visa (MEPV). This was created to help protect migrant workers from employers whose practices pose a direct or indirect threat to their well-being. It allows anyone with an employer-based work visa, who has had their complaint assessed by Employment New Zealand, to receive an open work visa for up to six months. It means they can leave their current job quickly while any exploitation charges are being investigated.

Anyone who experiences, sees, or suspects a breach of minimum employment rights can report it through a hotline which is free to call within New Zealand (+64 800 200 088) or online (employment.govt.nz). This service is available in 180 languages, including Tagalog.


The MEPV has been introduced to offset the risk that, in making the above visa changes, some migrants may find it harder to move employers, and may be tied to their employer for longer, and be more vulnerable to exploitative working conditions and wages.

These measures tangibly demonstrate the New Zealand Government's commitment to lifting protections for our temporary migrant workforce, and stamping out migrant exploitation.

In addition to the MEPV, migrants can apply to change their employer through a variation of conditions or a new visa to take up a new job where they have skills that cannot be met by the New Zealand labour force.

Further information in this new visa can be found thru this link:
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/immigration/temporary-migrant-worker-exploitation-review/>.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

13 August 2021

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs
Immigration New Zealand (INZ)
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) New Zealand

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BY CRD ON AUG 18 2021