



QATAR MINISTRY OF LABOR GETS STRICT ON VIOLATION OF LABOR LAW

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Qatar has reported that the Ministry of Labor of the State of Qatar will soon launch a massive crackdown on companies violating the provisions of its labor law through an inspection drive that will focus compliance on vocational health and safety, payment of salaries as well as the issue of run-away (absconding) workers.

The following are some of the new labor regulations that could be subject of the inspection campaign:

- Employees are required to provide salary payment record for the previous three months when they are applying for work visas. The salary payment records must be endorsed to the inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Labor.
- For worker's accommodation, the regulations provides that only four (4) workers should be accommodated in a 4/4 room. The accommodation should also have proper sanitation, drinking water and bathroom facilities.
- A company with more than 500 workers should set up a clinic at a company premises with qualified and experienced physician and nurses. In the absence of a clinic, a company should provide medical insurance.

Even as the Ministry of Labor is preparing for a major crackdown on violators of the regulations, records disclosed a small percentage of expatriates who have lodged complaints with the Ministry, which is less than 1% of the total workforce involving a total of 12,665 workers. Majority of the complaints were filed by workers in the construction sector, followed by the wholesale/ retail and the automobile repair/ maintenance sectors. The bulk of the complaints involved non-payment of salaries.

QATAR

**OFW Deployment Per Skill Category
(New Hires)
2009**

Administrative and Managerial Workers	123
Agricultural Animal Husbandry and Forestry Workers Fisherman and Hunters	4
Clerical and Related Workers	2,539
Production and Related Workers Transport Equipment Operators and Laborers	19,613
Professional Technical and Related Workers	4,053
Service Workers	10,587
Sales Workers	942
Not stated	109
TOTAL	37,970