



**Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
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**GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 11
Series of 2020**

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 922, Series of 2020, placing the entire Philippines under state of public health emergency due to the threat of the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, due to the continuous rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the President signed Proclamation No. 929 declaring a Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), the Luzon-wide ECQ lasted until April 30, 2020, with Metro Manila, Region III, Region IV-A remaining under ECQ until May 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, under IATF-EID Resolution No. 37 (series of 2020), Metro Manila, Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Zambales, Angeles, Cebu City and Mandaue City, were placed under Modified ECQ (MECQ) from May 16 to 31, 2020. Beginning June 1, 2020 areas placed under MECQ transitioned to General Community Quarantine (GCQ);

WHEREAS, under the IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, there shall be restrictions of movement within, into, or out of the areas of quarantine. Restrictions in movement include the suspension (under ECQ and MECQ) or limited operation (under GCQ) of public transportation and the suspension or limitation of interzonal and intrazonal movements via land, sea and air;

WHEREAS, the reduction of mobility as a result of the community quarantine measures resulted in unintended cross-border movement consequences, such as Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs), which include overseas employment workers, migrant workers and applicants;

WHEREAS, a great number of overseas employment workers and applicants were stranded in different parts of Luzon, primarily in Metro Manila, were unable to return to their respective provincial residences due to the imposed travel restrictions. The said LSIs are forced to remain at the accommodation houses provided by private recruitment and/or manning agencies, as well as those independently contracted by the former pending issuance of their respective travel authorities and/or medical clearances;

WHEREAS, paragraph 27, Rule II, Part I of the Revised POEA Rules and Regulations, Overseas Filipino Worker or Migrant Worker refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State or country of which the worker is not a citizen. A person to be engaged in a

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Chief, Central Records Division

remunerated activity refers to an applicant worker who has been promised or assured employment overseas

WHEREAS, Section 1, Rule I, Part II of the same Revised POEA Rules mandates the participation of the private sector in the recruitment of Filipino workers for overseas employment in accordance with these Rules and any subsequent guidelines that may be issued by the POEA Governing Board and the Administration.

Page

WHEREAS, Section 207, Rule I Part VIII of the same Revised POEA Rules provide that the Administration shall ensure that Overseas Filipino Workers are amply protected, and that their interests, well-being and welfare are promoted. Licensed and manning recruitment agencies shall be responsible for the faithful compliance by their principals/employers of all obligations under the employment contract.

Page

WHEREAS, Section 208 Rule I Part VIII of the same Revised POEA Rules allows the Administration to take cognizance of any request for assistance from the Overseas Filipino Worker or his/her family on matters relating to overseas employment, or may refer them to the proper government agencies or the licensed and manning recruitment agencies concerned, for appropriate action;

Page

WHEREAS, Section 211 Rule I Part VIII of the same Revised POEA Rules warrants the imposition of Administrative Sanctions by the Administration of such sanctions as it may deem appropriate, against licensed and manning recruitment agencies and/or principals/employers who failed to submit reports or to act on requests for assistance and/or complaints of Overseas Filipino Workers and/or their families;

WHEREAS, the Administration has received an alarmingly increasing number of reports concerning locally stranded overseas employment applicants who were either abandoned, neglected or otherwise evicted by private recruitment agencies from their accommodation houses and were left unattended with very little to no means for securing sustenance and basic provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened, **RESOLVES AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct all Private Recruitment Agencies (PRAs) to act on all issues or complaints brought to its attention, closely monitor and to submit report on the status and condition of their respective processed overseas Filipino workers whose deployments were deferred on account of community quarantine restrictions, overseas employment applicants currently housed in their accommodations and those who were promised or assured employment overseas. The report shall be submitted to the Welfare Services Branch (WSB) within five (5) working days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Request for Assistance from the Administration.

RESOLVED, that all PRAs are directed to provide assistance to the above-specified LSIs. Such assistance shall be in the form of, but not limited to temporary accommodation/shelter, food, COVID-19 test and transportation back to their respective provinces.

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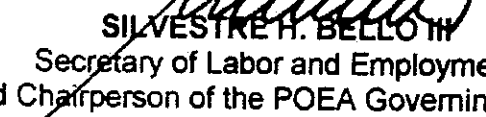
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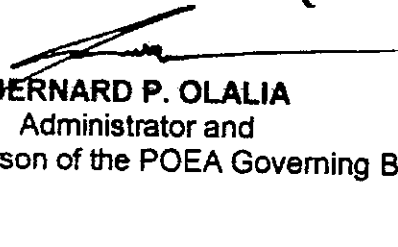
RESOLVED FURTHER, that non-compliance with the above-specified reportorial requirement, willful neglect or failure by the licensed recruitment and manning agencies to provide assistance without just cause shall warrant the imposition of Documentary Suspension and such other sanctions as the Administration may deem necessary, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal and administrative actions.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the POEA Administrator is hereby authorized to issue appropriate circulars to clarify this Governing Board Resolution.


For immediate compliance.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this _____ day of August 2020.


SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary of Labor and Employment
and Chairperson of the POEA Governing Board

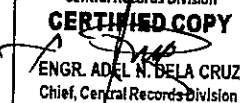

BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator and
Vice-Chairperson of the POEA Governing Board


ESTRELITA S. HIZON
Member
Private Sector Representative


ALEXANDER E. ASUNCION
Member
Landbased Sector Representative


FELIX M. OCA
Member
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