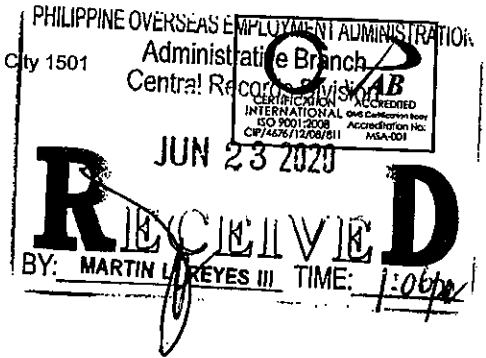




**Philippine
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POEA warns public on online identity theft, cyber cloning, and other internet related scams

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has noticed a sharp rise in cases of online scams during the ongoing COVID-19 community quarantine. Unscrupulous individuals have been taking advantage of people's increased online presence to victimize unsuspecting jobseekers and licensed recruitment agencies. The online scams involve phishing, identity theft and cyber cloning.

Phishing involves the fraudulent process of acquiring sensitive or personal information, while identity theft and cyber cloning involves the use of identical or nearly similar (the clone) online accounts (e-mail, website, social media). Identity theft and cyber cloning have recently been used to imitate the websites, simulate the e-mail addresses or clone the social media accounts of some licensed recruitment agencies and their staff to advertise fake overseas jobs and swindle applicants. Aside from money, phishing scams have also tricked jobseekers into submitting sensitive and personal information.

The public is warned to exercise extreme caution in dealing with any online job advertisements as these may be part of internet related scams. Overseas jobseekers are encouraged to always verify job offers through the POEA verification system at the POEA website www.poea.gov.ph or email the POEA Information Center at info@poea.gov.ph. Likewise, licensed recruitment agencies are advised to secure their websites, e-mails and social media accounts to ensure that they would not be used in any online schemes.

The public may report internet related criminal activity to the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACGF) at 8723-0401 loc 5313 or e-mail at pnp.anticybercrimegroup@gmail.com for proper evaluation and investigation. The POEA asks the public to immediately report any suspicious activities pertaining to online illegal recruitment scams to the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch Operations and Surveillance Division at email poea_airb_osd@yahoo.com or contact 8722-1192.

BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

