

ADVISORY NO. 22

Series of 2026

WARNING AGAINST ILLEGAL RECRUITERS EXPLOITING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

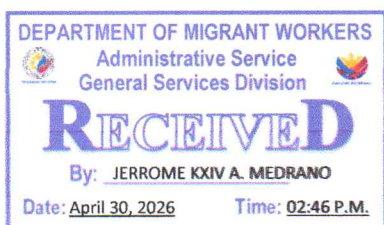
The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) warns the public against illegal recruiters, traffickers and syndicates taking advantage of the ongoing crisis and instability in parts of the Middle East. The DMW has been receiving reports regarding suspicious recruitment activities, including fake job offers and deceptive schemes proliferating online and on social media platforms targeting Filipinos who are seeking immediate overseas employment in the region.

In view of these developments, all aspiring overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), returning OFWs, and their families are strongly advised to exercise extreme caution and to deal only with duly licensed recruitment agencies with approved job orders verified through official DMW channels. The DMW warns that illegal recruiters and traffickers often exploit situations of conflict, uncertainty, and urgent deployment demand by offering seemingly attractive job opportunities, high salaries, and fast processing, only to subject workers to undocumented, unsafe, or exploitative conditions abroad.

The public is likewise reminded that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) continues to maintain crisis alert levels in several areas in the Middle East, with some locations under heightened restrictions, voluntary repatriation, or mandatory evacuation phases. In such circumstances, unauthorized recruitment and irregular deployment expose Filipino workers to even greater danger.

Accordingly, the DMW urges the public to observe the following precautions:

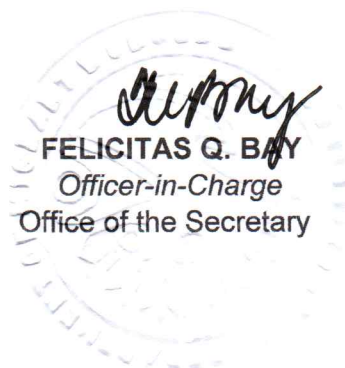
- a. verify whether the recruitment agency is duly licensed by the DMW;
- b. confirm that the job order is approved and valid;
- c. avoid transacting with persons operating only through Facebook, Tiktok, Telegram, WhatsApp, or other unofficial channels;
- d. never pay placement fees without a valid employment contract and official receipt;
- e. do not accept arrangements involving tourist visas for employment purposes;
and
- f. do not transact with travel agencies, fixers, or unauthorized representatives offering overseas jobs.



CONTROLLED AND DISSEMINATED
By: DMW General Services Division on April 30, 2026



The DMW further calls on the public to immediately report suspicious individuals, agencies, online pages or recruitment offers to the DMW's Migrant Workers Protection Bureau at 4th Floor, DMW Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City or call hotline no. 87210619 or email: airtipinfo@dmw.gov.ph.



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