



NEWS ADVISORY

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UAE cracks down on illegal workers

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration cautions applicants for overseas jobs against going to work in the United Arab Emirates using tourist visas.

Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai reported that it received a letter from the Department of Naturalization and Residency (Immigration Department) that two Filipinas were apprehended and detained at the Immigration Deportation Center for allegedly working under visit visas.

They may have realized that such practice is now becoming widespread that the UAE immigration authorities are currently conducting a random check among establishments and companies to determine if they are employing expatriates with tourist visas.

The consulate said this is clear indication that immigration authorities are now seriously implementing the prohibition for visit visa holders to work, paid or unpaid, either on a part-time or full time basis.

Visit visa holders found to be violating the law are subject to immediate deportation following their detention for seven days while their employers face penalty.

Under existing laws, the status of a visit visa holder who lands a job becomes legitimate only if, after a reasonable period of time, the worker has complied with the labor requirements and has had the visa converted to employment visa on the sponsorship of the prospective employer.

Baldoz said Filipino travelers with intention to work in UAE should realize that visit visas are issued strictly for visit (tourist) purpose and not for employment.

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