

AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

To further enhance their cordial relations and promote the essence of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 1994, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the "First Party") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (the "Second Party"), hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties", agree to amend said MOU and re-affirm its purposes, objectives and rules, to wit:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall work collectively to promote and strengthen areas of cooperation in the fields of labor, employment, and human resource development.

ARTICLE 2

Both Parties agree to regularly communicate, evaluate, and exchange information on labor matters for the purpose of improving employment relations and labor administration.

ARTICLE 3

The First Party agrees to allow the hiring of Filipino nationals in its territory, pursuant to the laws and regulations of both Parties. The Second Party expresses its desire to assist the First Party in its economic development by helping provide its manpower needs.

ARTICLE 4

The First Party shall enforce observance of the terms and conditions of the employment contracts of Filipino workers within its territory. The Second Party, through the Department of Labor and Employment (hereinafter referred to as "DOLE"), shall ensure the deployment of qualified Filipino workers.

ARTICLE 5

DOLE, in promoting the protection and welfare of Filipino overseas contract workers, shall establish a Filipino Workers Resource Center attached to the Philippine Consulate in the CNMI.

ARTICLE 6

After the entry into force of this amended MOU by both Parties, no Filipino worker shall be employed in the CNMI without having been processed by the Second Party.

THE CNMI SHALL EXERT UTMOST EFFORTS TO GUARANTEE OBSERVANCE OF ITS APPLICABLE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAWS AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STIPULATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF FILIPINO CONTRACT WORKERS THEREAT. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THROUGH DOLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHALL ENSURE THE DEPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED FILIPINO WORKERS TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF EMPLOYERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH. THE RECRUITMENT OF CONTRACT WORKERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE GOVERNED PURSUANT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS.

A CNMI-PHILIPPINE LIAISON OFFICE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN MANILA TO FOSTER CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ENSURE THAT BOTH COMMONWEALTH AND PHILIPPINE EMPLOYMENT LAWS WILL BE COMPLIED WITH. LIKEWISE, DOLE WILL ESTABLISH A FILIPINO WORKERS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ATTACHED TO THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE OFFICE IN THE CNMI TO PROMOTE AND ENSURE THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF FILIPINO OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS.

AFTER THE FORMAL ADOPTION OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY BOTH PARTIES, NO FILIPINO WORKER WILL BE INITIALLY EMPLOYED IN THE CNMI WITHOUT HAVING BEEN PROCESSED BY THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA). FURTHERMORE, THE CNMI GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DOLE AND THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE IN REACHING OUT TO DOCUMENTED WORKERS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE COMMONWEALTH WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S CLEARANCE BY REQUIRING THEM TO BECOME FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA).


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BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHALL MAKE A PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND RECOMMEND NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT(S) FOR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CNMI AND DOLE DO VOLUNTARILY AND WILLINGLY ENTER INTO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND WILL HEREAFTER PROMULGATE THE IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES IN ORDER TO FORM AN EFFICIENT AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

SIGNED THIS 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1994 IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES.


BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA
Acting Secretary of Labor
and Employment
Republic of the Philippines


JESUS C. BORJA
Lt. Governor
Commonwealth of Northern
Mariana Islands