



Cyprus in Need of Foreign Workers

The DOLE marketing mission that visited Cyprus on December 2005 has reported on the need for foreign nurses and midwives by private hospitals and clinics in Cyprus. Private hospitals are reportedly experiencing an acute shortage of nurses due to the new requirement for health care under the EU program and its nursing education system which limits nursing enrollees. Graduates are absorbed mostly by the government hospitals. Foreign nurses married to Cypriots currently augment private hospital requirements for nurses.

Cyprus officials estimate an annual demand of 200 to 300 nurses until 2008. There is presently no quota on the number of foreign nurses who will be allowed to work in Cyprus, but the government might impose one this year. In order to facilitate the hiring of foreign nurses, the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health and private clinics/hospitals have agreed to exempt them from the usual labor market test.

According to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus, the nursing education system of the Philippine meets the requirements for 4,600 hours nursing curriculum. However, the NMC needs the number of hours, instead of credits, for the subjects in the Philippine nursing curriculum for them to evaluate and prove the competency of Filipino nurses. The NMC also requires a police clearance valid for the past 3 months. On the other hand, Cyprus hospitals are experiencing shortage of midwives too. The NMC requires 3-year basic education as a minimum educational attainment for midwives.