



Kuwait Increases Mandatory Employment Levels For Its Nationals

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuwait recently reported that Kuwait had increased the mandatory employment level for its nationals in certain jobs in the government and private sector in order to reduce unemployment for Kuwaitis. The measure will give jobs to their unemployed citizens who are degree holders, a move that is expected to slightly affect the opportunities for foreign workers.

The Kuwaiti government has imposed the following staffing pattern which private companies have to follow:

<i>Sectors Affected</i>	<i>% of Local employees Required</i>
Agricultural/fishing companies, restaurants and construction companies	2%
Bank tellers, accounting staff, clerks, treasurers, secretaries, company representatives, communication and public relations jobs	50%
Companies employing more than 100 workers	100% of administrative managers, human resource directors and telephone operators should be Kuwaitis
Financial establishments	15%
Hospitals/clinics	10%
Hotels	5%
Mining companies	9%
Receptionist and petrochemical oil industries	20-25%
Travel agencies	10%

The POLO believed that this development would not seriously affect deployment of Filipinos to Kuwait given the preference of Kuwaiti employers for Filipino workers. *Further, a big number of positions usually occupied by Filipino nationals are those with lesser quota required to be occupied by Kuwaitis.*

Source: POLO Kuwait Report
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