

News Release
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Don't fall prey to "marriage-for-job" racket in China

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday warned the public against unscrupulous persons who entice Filipino women into marrying Chinese nationals supposedly in exchange for possible employment in China and other financial benefits.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has reported that five (5) Filipino women were recently stranded in Tongxu, Henan province and have requested repatriation assistance from the government. They were allegedly recruited by two (2) Chinese nationals namely Song Gang and Li Chunrong a.k.a. Steven Lee with a promise of possible employment in China. Steven Lee is reportedly married to Violeta Aquino, a Filipino national from Urbiztondo, Pangasinan.

In a statement, one of the female recruits said Steven Lee and his wife arranged her marriage to a Chinese national named Wei Qi Lai who was then staying in Pangasinan as a tourist. She alleged that Steven Lee promised to give her family a dowry of Php140,000.00 after their marriage and when she gets her Chinese visa. However, her family only received Php100,000.00 after deducting expenses for the wedding reception and processing of her travel documents.

They were married in Pangasinan on September 11, 2017 and she left for China on tourist visa with her husband on November 13, 2017. The couple then stayed with Wei Qi Lai's family in Zhangzhou.

The DFA's Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) said that although the five women are legally married to their Chinese spouses and are in possession of valid residence permits, the spouses did not allow them to find work in China. In addition, the Filipinos found out that their spouses do not have the financial capability to support their respective family in the Philippines contrary to what was promised by their recruiters.

The victim said she was doing fine during her first month in China but she started to worry after her husband confiscated her passport. On December 25, 2018, her husband threw her out of his house after an argument but her mother-in-law managed to pull her back in. She complained that her husband forced her sexually and she was physically harmed every time she refused. She escaped from her husband's home on April 23, 2018.

The DFA reported that they have on record a total of 23 Filipino women who married Chinese nationals for the opportunity to get employment in China. /END