

News Release
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POEA sets guidelines on documentation of vacationing OFWs from Iraq

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has issued the guidelines implementing POEA Resolution No. 6 Series of 2018 which exempts certain returning workers from the current deployment ban imposed on Iraq under the Selective Balik-Manggagawa Exemption Program as proposed by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In Memorandum Circular No. 17 issued on November 21, 2018, the POEA allowed the return of vacationing OFWs from Iraq, except household service workers, who are employed by companies with existing contracts with the government of Republic of Iraq, government of the United States and the government of members of the International Coalition, United Nations, other international organizations and international non-government organizations.

Also exempted from the deployment ban are those employed as private staff by foreign diplomats assigned in Baghdad and ranking officials of the Government of the Republic of Iraq provided that such employers have no pending cases as certified by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad.

The POEA board also allowed the return of Filipinos working and living in secured compounds in the provinces of Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Dhiqar, Karbala, Maysan, Mathunna, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Saladin, Wasit, and other areas certified as safe by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and provided that their employers bring them to the nearest airport and back to the premises using secured and non-public transportation.

Processing and deployment of domestic workers, whether new hire or returning worker shall not be allowed. The processing and deployment of new hires and returning workers to “no-go” zones such as Salahuddin, Anbar, Nineveh and Kirkuk is also restricted.

The requirements for the documentation of the exempted OFWs are the following:

1. Passport, valid at least six (6) months from the date of intended departure
2. Valid and appropriate visa of work permit
3. Verified employment contract providing among others, the exact address/location of jobsite, telephone number and email address of employer
4. Certification of employment indicating the period of employment with the company
5. Certificate of exemption issued by the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad
6. Undertaking from the employer on the following:
 - a. Protection and safety of the worker
 - b. That the worker will not be deployed or assigned to identified no-go zones
 - c. To report to the Philippine Embassy and/or Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) significant incidents affecting the employment, safety and welfare of the worker
 - d. Immediate evacuation/repatriation of the worker as may be warranted

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