10 August 2016

## Filipino Communities in Milan and Northern Italy

## Oualified Balik-Mangagawa workers no longer require OEC

Dear Kababayans,

I am pleased to inform you that Filipino workers returning to the same employer and jobsite are now exempted from the Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) requirement starting first week of September 2016, following the directive of H.E. President Rodrigo Duterte to streamline processes in the deployment of Overseas Filipino Workers. This development was announced by Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Board, of which Secretary Bello is the Chairperson, issued Resolution No. 12, Series of 2016, exempting a group of Filipino workers from the OEC requirement on a pilot project basis. Exempted are: (1) Balik-Manggagawa workers or those returning to the same employer and jobsite, and listed in the POEA database of OFWs; or (2) those hired through POEA Government Placement Branch.

Balik-Manggagawa workers are encouraged to register at bmonline.ph and provide his/her personal and employment particulars to validate if he/she is indeed exempted from obtaining the OEC. This information will be transmitted to the Bureau of Immigration as reference of the Immigration officer in validating the exemption of the worker during his/her departure.

Balik-Manggagawa workers are exempted from paying the travel tax and airport terminal fee upon presentation of the valid work permit/valid employment contract/ valid company ID/ recent payroll slip or other equivalent document, to the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) of the Consulate is preparing the necessary facility to assist our kababayans in registering at BM Online.

Please share this important information to your family and friends and other interested persons. Maraming salamat po.

Very truly yours,

Consul General