

**[POEA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 13, s. of
1998, September 08, 1998]**

**HARSH PENALTIES FOR SMUGGLING AND DRUG TRAFFICKING
IN INDIA/OTHER COUNTRIES**

In view of the recurring incidences of smuggling and drug trafficking involving our overseas Filipino workers, particularly seafarers, the Administration hereby sternly warns them against the commission thereof, considering the harsh penalties prescribed therefor. The latest incident involving a seaman now detained for gold smuggling occurred in India whose laws impose stiff sanctions on offenders.

To prevent further occurrence of such untoward incidents, all PDO entities are enjoined to emphasize during the seminar, the grave sequences of committing the aforestated offenses, not only in India, but also in KSA, other Middle East countries, USA and its trust territories. Licensed agencies deploying workers to said countries are also advised to disseminate this information to their departing OFWs during their supplemental briefings.

It must be pointed out, that once caught and offense is adjudged smuggling and/or drug trafficking, the erring workers should not expect the Philippine government to condone their transgressions. They must also be reminded that not only the offenders suffer the outcome of involvement in this international menace but their families and loved ones as well.

They must also be warned that the POEA imposes sanctions against OFWs found guilty of smuggling and drug trafficking pursuant to its rules and regulations.

For the information and strict compliance of all parties concerned

Adopted: 08 Sept. 1998

(SGD.) REYNALDO A REGALADO
Administrator



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