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ILLEGAL DEPLOYMENT OF ENTERTAINERS TO CYPRUS

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Cyprus has reported that a number of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who were illegally deployed as entertainers ended up as prostitutes in Cyprus. Recently, four (4) Filipina entertainers who were hired as dancers were physically abused by a club owner and were forced to do "sex services" to club customers.

According to POLO-Cyprus, employment of entertainers to cabarets/clubs/pub houses is legal in Cyprus. The Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance (MLSI) approves the employment of entertainers and issues a corresponding "entertainer entry visa". However, the Filipino entertainers that recently entered the country used fake documents, hence were considered illegal migrants.

Our Post in Cyprus met with MLSI labor officials to discuss the issue on the illegal entry of Filipino entertainers to Cyprus. During their discussion, the MLSI officials mentioned that **"if the deploying country has existing policy of not allowing processing/deployment of entertainers to Cyprus, they might consider stopping the issuance of entry permits for Filipino entertainers."**

Per POEA Memorandum Circular No. 33, series of 1988, the deployment of entertainers to Cyprus was suspended since September 1988 due to the distressing working conditions of Filipino entertainers. The said derivative is still in effect as of this date.

For the information of all concerned.

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Administrator



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