

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF VISA REGULATIONS BY AUTHORITIES IN CHINA

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The Philippine Embassy in Beijing, China has reported on the strict enforcement of visa regulations on foreigners by Chinese authorities. According to the report, the crackdown may be part of security measures for the forthcoming Olympics which will be held in the country in 2008 and in response to complaints by Chinese nationals who fear losing their jobs to foreigners, including Filipinos.

During a meeting between officials from the Philippine Embassy and Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB), the latter acknowledged the demand for Filipino domestic helpers in China. However, the PSB emphasized that Chinese labor laws prohibit the employment of foreigners as domestic helpers.

The public is strongly warned against working in China without proper employment visas or permit. Foreigners caught violating the country's visa regulations face stiff penalties such as fines, imprisonment and deportation.

For the information of all concerned.

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