

SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS THROUGH “PADALA” OR REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS TO CARRY LUGGAGE

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In line with the directive of Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz to intensify information campaign to address the drug mule problems, particularly those involving Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the POEA reiterates its strong warning to OFWs and Filipino travelers not to accept requests from individuals or groups of individuals to carry luggage for them as it may contain illegal drugs. We also advise OFWs and Filipino travelers to disassociate from drug syndicates to avoid being victimized or suspected of being a member of a drug syndicate.

The public is strongly warned against transporting, wittingly or unwittingly, prohibited/ illegal drugs into other countries. This offense is punishable by imprisonment and/ or a death sentence, as in the case of three OFWs now facing the death penalty in China for drug trafficking.

Recruitment agencies are also advised to inform their recruited overseas workers about this advisory through its Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS), and the consequences they will be facing if caught carrying illegal drugs.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Adopted: 03 March 2011

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