PIDS Study 1 -- C-19 & the OFWs: Looking into the Philippine government's COVID-19 support mechanism for migrant workers and overseas Filipinos

Ellene A. Sana

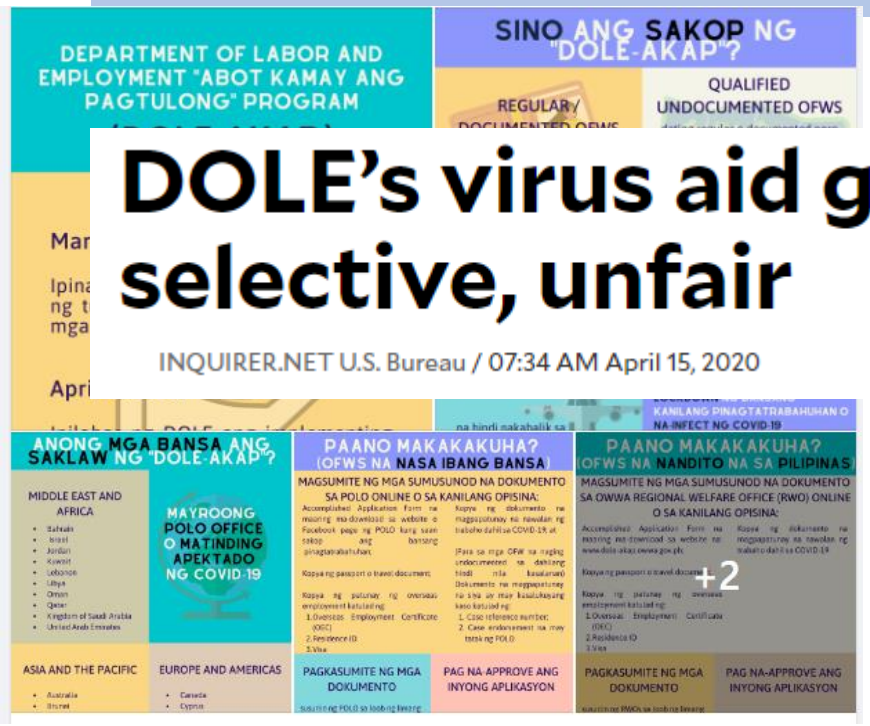
PIDS Webinar June 8, 2023

First OFF – a Big Thank You! To our frontliners!

- BIG Thank you to our government particularly DFA (OUMWA, Embassies and Consulates and Regional Offices), the DOLE Family (OWWA, POEA, POLOs, NRCO, ILAB, ILS), DSWD, IATF, DOH, BoQ, MIAA and Airport Personnel, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Our LGUs
- To the international Community, Destination countries
- PRAs and CSOS and OFCs

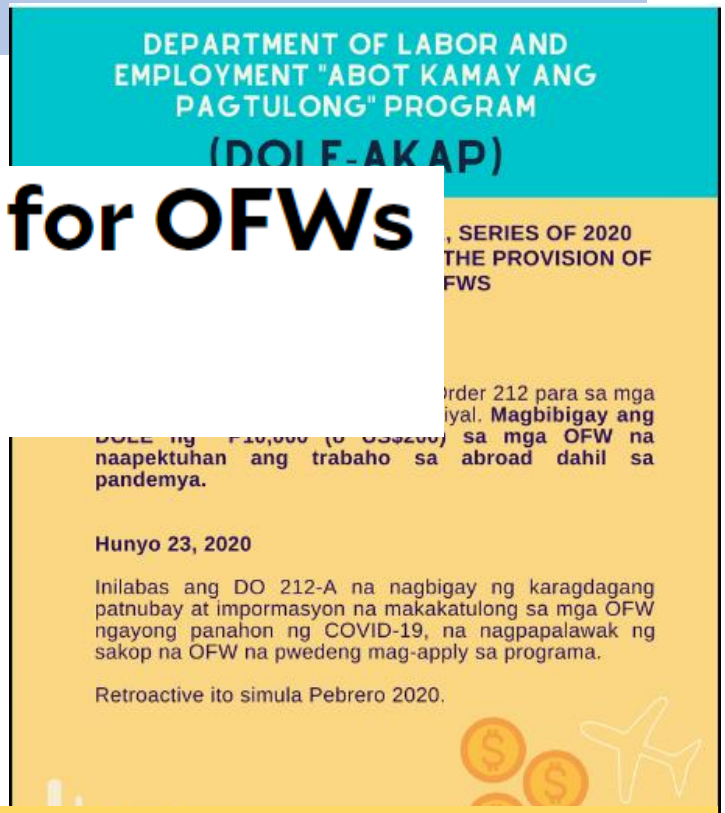
- Indeed it was a whole of nation approach that was on the move
- Making available the much needed enormous HUGE HUGE resources to extend assistance to the OFWs and their families…

AYUDA—DOLE AKAP---Confusion, Varying interpretations, Delays



DOLE's virus aid guidelines for OFWs selective, unfair

INQUIRER.NET U.S. Bureau / 07:34 AM April 15, 2020



Timeline:

- **March 25 –DOLE announced DOLE AKAP;**
- **April8—Issued Implementing Guidelines –selective criteria**
- **April 18 Expanded coverage**
- **June 23 - Issued Supplemental Guidelines for expanded coverage**

AYUDA

US$200 for Covid + OFWs ONSITE

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

DOLE COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR OFWS

Pas...

Breakdown of Financial Assistance to COVID-infected OFWs

Number of Infected OFWs	Financial Assistance (USD)	Financial Assistance Total (PHP)
11,238	$200 each	Php 112,330,000

Nawalan ka ba ng trabaho bilang empleyado, OFW, o kasambahay?

Mag-submit na ng ONLINE application para sa

SSS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Maaari kang mag-apply para sa benepisyong ito kung ikaw ay isang SSS member na sapilitang nawalan ng trabaho o involuntarily separated sa iyong pinapasukang kompanya dahil sa sumusunod na dahilan:

- ✓ Pagbagsak ng ekonomiya
- ✓ Kalamidad o sakuna
- ✓ Retrenchment or downsizing ng kompanya
- ✓ Pagsasara ng pinapasukan dahil sa pagkalugi
- ✓ Karamdaman na ang patuloy na pagtatrabaho ay ipinagbabawal ng batas, o makaaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga kasamahan sa trabaho
- ✓ Iba pang dahilan ng sapilitang pagkawala ng trabaho sa ilalim ng Labor Code of the Philippines

Hindi kailangan pumunta sa SSS branches dahil ONLINE ang pag-file ng aplikasyon dito! Siguruhin lamang na mayroon kang My.SSS account sa SSS Website o SSS Mobile App.

Unemployment benefits from SSS

Food Packs to OFWs and Families

- Not All Posts (POLOs) were pro-active in accommodating requests for Assistance from OFWs; And if they did, mabagal kumilos
- CMA had to make interventions on behalf of some of the OFWs requesting for assistance to expedite releases of food packs
- Families left behind experienced discrimination in distribution of Ayudas by LGUs –mayaman naman daw sila dahil me OFWs.
-

REPATRIATION –Coming Home Empty Handed

Wage Theft Cases

- 67% --Decision to return was due to Covid-19 **(5,582 OFWs)**
- 19% --contracts were pre-terminated **(1,583)**; 59% did not get their separation or compensation pay **(4,915)**; more WMW were affected than male MWs
- 17% did not get their final wages **(1,416)**
- **Source: IOM 2020 Study of repatriated OFWs (8,322 respondents)**

From CMA File: as of August 2022– 206 individual cases; 15 Gorup Cases; 60% repatriated OFWs; 40% OnSIte cases

Delays in repatriation resulted to Saved Earnings being depleted; by the time they went home ater many monthe of waiting, konti na lang o ubos na ang naipon nila (e.g. case of workers in a company in Qatar)

Access to Justice

- Justice Delayed is Justice Denied for those who had to return home and for those who wanted to pursue cases back home – as lockdowns were imposed offices of government had to adjust –to online platforms and skeletal force – either way, workers with money claims and other concerns could not proceed as usual, even if government kept on saying that operations will continue unhampered. Easier said than done!

Migrant Health and Stigma

- “Migrants are Carriers of the Virus”
- Mental Health cases on the rise, including suicide
- OWWA and other offices were not fully prepared to address these concerns –which of course persisted post-pandemic
- Has Health-seeking behavior of OFWs improved learning from the pandemic? What the OFWS remember was the Philhealth contribution being imposed and with corresponding penalty for failure to do so.

Migrants Death –Repatriation of remains and Death Benefits

- Big Issue was when deceased OFWs in KSA were buried without consent of Families of OFWs– What was the truth to this?
- Equally important are the death benefits to the heirs of the deceased OFWs – including from mandatory insurance coverage (e.g. case of OFW in Kuwait with heirs not informed about it) and computation of end of service benefits (NOK though DFA was not releasing the entire amount—rules in succession)

Key Take Aways– MUST Be Inclusive, Human rights-Based & Gender-responsive

- Effective and timely communication and coordination between and amongst government agencies and relevant stakeholders (horizontal and vertical) –to avoid miscommunication, confusion and thus delays
- Build on Database of OASIS particularly for reintegration diagnostics for reliable verifiable data on migration
- Agree on the interpretation of "DATA Privacy Law" as it could hamper prompt action if invoked the wrong way (e.g. national-LGU dynamics)
- DO a Finance and Performance Audit of:
  - DOLE AKAP Funds
  - OWWA Emergency repatriation fund (for 2023 placed at almost P12B)
  - DFA ATN during pandemic

- DMW should make itself felt and fast track transition period to take the reins of leadership where OFWs and families are concerned – of particular importance is implementation of the "full cycle reintegration"

CMA DID Its Share on Info Dissemination, Ayuda and Facilitating Assistance to Distressed Migrants

RAPPLER.COM

MovePH Webinar: Coronavirus impact on OFW welfare and employment

LABAN MANGGAGAWA!
iDEFEND LIVESTREAM
MAY 1,2020
4:00PM
SEE LINKS.
https://idefend.ph/youtube
@iDEFENDofficial
VAL VIBAL
ANIBAN NG MANGGAGAWA SA AGRIKULTURA
JUDY ANN CHAN-MIRANDA
PARTIDO MANGGAGAWA
ATTY. LUKE ESPIRITU
BUKLURAN NG MANGGAGAWANG PILIPINO
JOSUA MATA
SENTRO NG MGA NAGKAKAISA AT PROGRESIBONG MANGGAGAWA
ELLEN SANA
CENTER FOR MIGRANTS ADVOCACY
PRIMO AMPARO
WORKERS FOR PEOPLES LIBERATION

Date: 13 October 2020
Time: 05:30 PM Indian Time (GMT + 05:30)
GCM OBJECTIVE 7: ADDRESS AND REDUCE VULNERABILITIES IN MIGRATION
William Gois
Regional coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
(Moderator)
Ellene A. Sana
Executive Director, Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
Ignacio Packer
Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies
Irene de Lorenzo-Cáceres Cantero
Advocacy and Policy Specialist (Child Migration), UNICEF
Dr Patrick Duigan
Regional Migration Health Advisor, IOM
Helen Brunt
Senior Regional Migration & Displacement Officer, IFRC
Sandra Federici
Director, Africa e Mediterraneo
All are Welcome. The event will be organized using 'Zoom' App. Send an email to convenor@grfdt.com in case of any difficulty in registration. Livestreaming: www.grfdt.com.
REGISTRATION

4th National Conference on Migrant Health
WEBINAR SERIES
Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal: Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward
Repatriation and Reintegration of Overseas Filipinos in the Time of COVID-19: Current Government Policies, Programs, and Other Initiatives
November 18, 2020 | 1:00-4:00pm Manila (UTC +8)
HIGH-LEVEL PANEL
COVID-19 Surveillance Among Migrants and Overseas Filipinos
Dir. Maria Antonio Q. Soledad
Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
COVID-19 Policies and Initiatives on Repatriation for Overseas Filipinos
Exec. Dir. Iric C. Arribas
Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
Reintegration Services for Returning Overseas Filipinos during COVID-19
Admin. Hans Leo J. Cacdac
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)
PANEL OF REACTORS
Ms. Stella P. Go
Convenor
Philippine Migration Research Network
Ms. Ellene A. Sana
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy
Mr. Venecio V. Legaspi
Director General
OFW Council of Leaders, Middle East
Moderated by:
Dr. Juan Alfonso Perez IV
Department of Health
Migrant Health Unit
REGISTER NOW AT bit.ly/4thncmh

Raul Valenzuela
ABSCON

Philippine Migration Research Network
with the support of
Philippine Social Science Council
MIGRATION DIALOGUES:
THE STATE OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS AMIDST COVID-19
Join our webinar on 25 May 2020, 4:00-5:30 PM (GMT+08:00)
via Facebook Live: Philippine Migration Research Network
fb.com/migrationPH
Register here: bit.ly/migrationdialogues3
Resource Speakers:
Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho
Junior Partner & Head of Seafarers' Division
SVBB Law Offices
Fr. Paulo Prigol
Chaplain and Director
Stella Maris-Manila
Prof. Lucia P. Tangi
Faculty
Department of Journalism
University of the Philippines
Moderator:
Ms. Ellene Sana
Executive Director, Centre for Migrant Advocacy
For inquiries:
pmrn@pssc.org.ph

Usapang EveryWoman 5th Episode | May 4, 5:30PM
Pauwi Sa Amin:
Ang Hinaharap ng Returning OFWs
Aurora De Dios
EveryWoman
Carmelita Gopez Nuqui
Development Action for Women Network
Ellene Sana
Center for Migrant Advocacy

UK Government
MIGRANT FORUM ASIA
UNPAID WAGES AND REMITTANCES:
Deconstructing the Impact of COVID-19 and Ways Forward
WEDNESDAY
09 DECEMBER 2020
01:00PM LONDON TIME
Register in advance here:
https://bit.ly/3poKAX8
MODERATOR:
MR. WILLIAM GOIS
Regional Coordinator
Migrant Forum in Asia
SPEAKERS:
MR. HANSPETER WYSS
Program Manager
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
Switzerland
DR. DILIP RATHA
Head of KNOMAD
World Bank
MS. ELLENE SANA
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
PROF. RAY JUREIDINI
Professor of Migration Ethics and Human Rights
Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar
PROF. FRANCOIS CREPEAU
Full Professor, Faculty of Law
McGill University

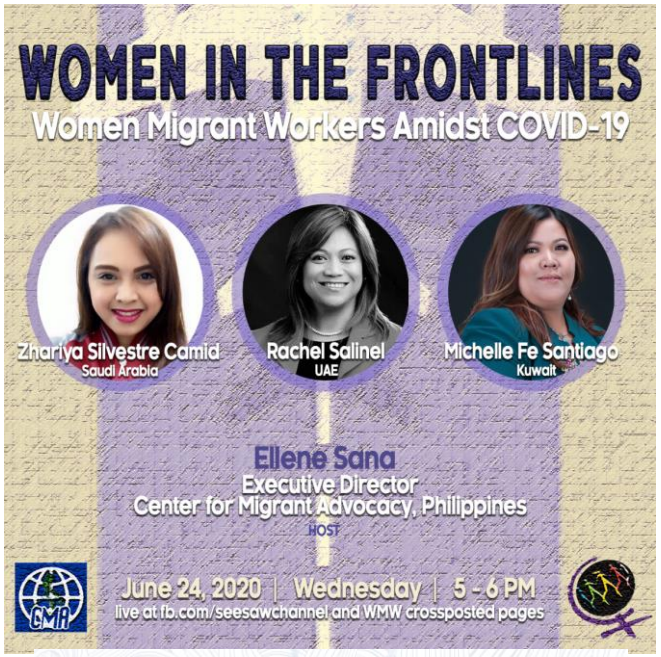
SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO SET-UP OFW HELPDESK AT BARANGAY BAGUMBAYAN,
Municipality of Mother Kabuntalan, Province of Maguindanao

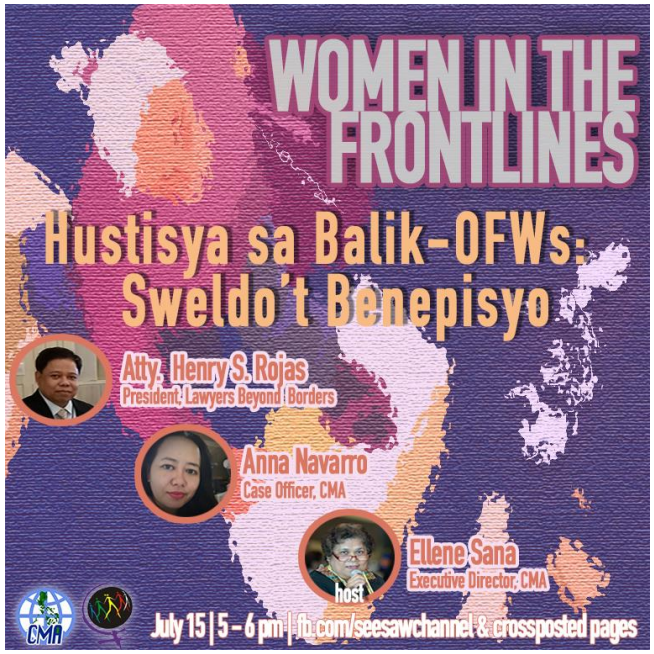
SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO SET-UP OFW HELPDESK AT BARANGAY POBLACION 7, COTABATO CITY.

"Strengthening Capacities for the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families"

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY

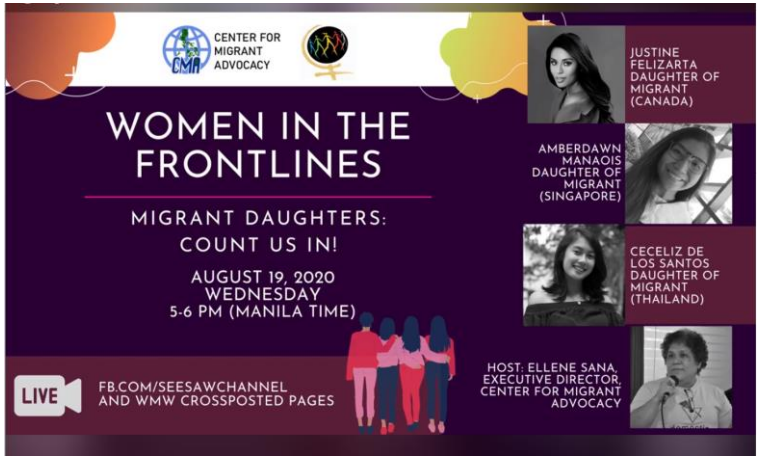
AWO International

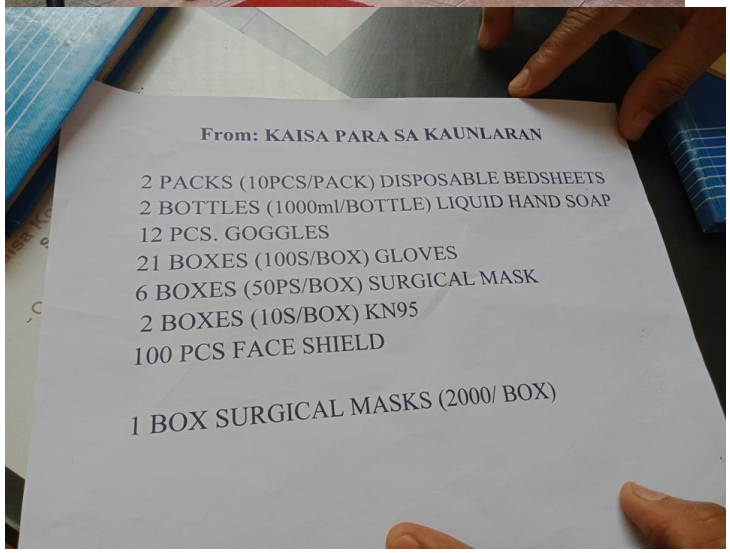

WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES
Women Migrant Workers Amidst COVID-19
Zhariya Silvestre Camid
Saudi Arabia
Rachel Salinel
UAE
Michelle Fe Santiago
Kuwait
Ellene Sana
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
HOST
June 24, 2020 | Wednesday | 5 - 6 PM
live at fb.com/seesawchannel and WMW crossposted pages


WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES
Hustisya sa Balik-OFWs: Sweldo't Benepisyo
Atty. Henry S. Rojas
President, Lawyers Beyond Borders
Anna Navarro
Case Officer, CMA
host
Ellene Sana
Executive Director, CMA
July 15 | 5 - 6 pm | fb.com/seesawchannel & crossposted pages

Spotlight Initiative
CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES:
Tinig ng Kababaihang OFW
CARINA CORDERO
dating OFW, survivor
PAMELA VILLA
dating OFW, survivor
TERESITA SANTOS
dating OFW, survivor
HOST: ELLENE SANA
executive director, CMA
DEC. 2, 2020 (WEDNESDAY)
5PM - 6PM (PHT)
LIVE
https://fb.com/seesawchannel
and WMW crossposted pages

HOST: ELLENE A. SANA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES
Saludo sa Pilipinong Marino!
MARY AILEEN BACALSO
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AT KAPATID NG ISANG MARINO
MIRALUNA CASIANO
PRESIDENT NG OFW FED. NG VICTORIAS CITY AT NANAY NG ISANG MARINO
SEPT. 23, 2020
WEDNESDAY
5-6PM (MANILA TIME)
LIVE
Live at fb.com/seesawchannel
and WMW crossposted pages!


CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES
MIGRANT DAUGHTERS:
COUNT US IN!
AUGUST 19, 2020
WEDNESDAY
5-6 PM (MANILA TIME)
JUSTINE FELIZARTA
DAUGHTER OF MIGRANT
(CANADA)
AMBERDAWN MANAOIS
DAUGHTER OF MIGRANT
(SINGAPORE)
CECELIZ DE LOS SANTOS
DAUGHTER OF MIGRANT
(THAILAND)
LIVE
FB.COM/SEESAWCHANNEL
AND WMW CROSSPOSTED PAGES
HOST: ELLENE SANA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR MIGRANT
ADVOCACY



From: KAISA PARA SA KAUNLARAN

2 PACKS (10PCS/PACK) DISPOSABLE BEDSHEETS
2 BOTTLES (1000ml/BOTTLE) LIQUID HAND SOAP
12 PCS. GOGGLES
21 BOXES (100S/BOX) GLOVES
6 BOXES (50PS/BOX) SURGICAL MASK
2 BOXES (10S/BOX) KN95
100 PCS FACE SHIELD

1 BOX SURGICAL MASKS (2000/ BOX)

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY (CMA PHILS) GIVES HELP TO REPATRIATED OFWS IN TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR

BY: Ernie Morte

Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA Phils), in coordination with local affiliate group, Poblacion Overseas Beneficiaries Association (POBA), in Tigaon, Camarines Sur, gave food packs to repatriated OFWs affected by the pandemic in November and last year (2020

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY (CMA PHILS) GIVES HELP TO REPATRIATED OFWS IN TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR

BY: Ernie Morte

POBA members and the repatriated OFWs expressed their appreciation and gratitude to CMA Phils and Ms. Sana and her staff who are based in Quezon City.

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY

BICOL EXPRESS

@news.bicolexpress
Media/News Company

JAN

OFWs in NV get assistance from Center for Migrant Advocacy

BY: Joy Lyn P. Dung-ao

The Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA) through its Executive Director, Ms. Ellene A. Sana, coordinated with the NVSU Seed Foundation Project distribution of assistance to a total of 60 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Nueva Vizcaya. The event happened late November and early December 2020. Each OFW received a total package worth P1,3000.00 consisting of 25kg milled rice, one tray eggs, a cooking oil and twin packs of coffee mix.

NVSU took charge of distribution providing milled rice from the project bought by CMA. OFWs were informed through friends and relatives, contact barangay officials,

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NVSU SEAL FOUNDATION PROGRAM
Seedpieces
ISSN 2094-3431
BAYAMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA

OFWs in NV get assistance from Center for Migrant Advocacy

BY: Joy Lyn P. Dung-ao

OFWs were grateful to the project and expressed much appreciation in receiving the food aid from CMA. One recipient said, "This effort to reach out is very timely. I thank both CMA and NVSU for remembering OFWs in our province. Agyamanak la unay, Apo."

NVSU also took the time to explain to all recipients what CMA is doing as a non-government organization promoting the welfare of OFWs in other provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NVSU SEAL FOUNDATION PROGRAM
Seedpieces
ISSN 2094-3431
BAYAMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA

2020/10/19 12:17

RICE PACK DISTRIBUTION
Ko-Bee
Ko-Bee
Ko-Bee
Ko-Bee
Ko-Bee

Session 4a- Welfare, OnSite, Recruitment Violations & Administrative Cases
Sept 25, Friday, 9:00-11:00am

Mr. Rustico SM dela Fuente
Director, Philippine Labor Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Atty. Francis Ron "Kiko" De Guzman
Director, Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch, POEA

Provincial Government of Laguna
thru the
Provincial PESO/One Stop Migration Resource Center (OSMRC)
in partnership with
Laguna State Polytechnic University and Center for Migrant Advocacy Phils (CMA)

TRAINING ON PARALEGAL AND OFW CASE MANAGEMENT
December 1-17, 2020

Gov RAMIL HERNANDEZ
Sebisyong Tama

ONSITE PROTECTION
December 14, 2020,
Monday, 1:00 - 3:00pm
Synchronous Session

Resource Person:
Ambassador Ricardo Endaya

Special Senior Assistant
Department of Foreign Affairs

Session 4B --OFW Cases @ NLRC
Sept 30, 2020, Wednesday
2:00-4:00pm

Atty. Grace E. Maniquiz-Tan
Presiding Commissioner
National Labor Relations Commission

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

PARALEGAL TRAINING

CMA Capacity Building on Paralegal and Access to Justice

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

PARALEGAL TRAINING

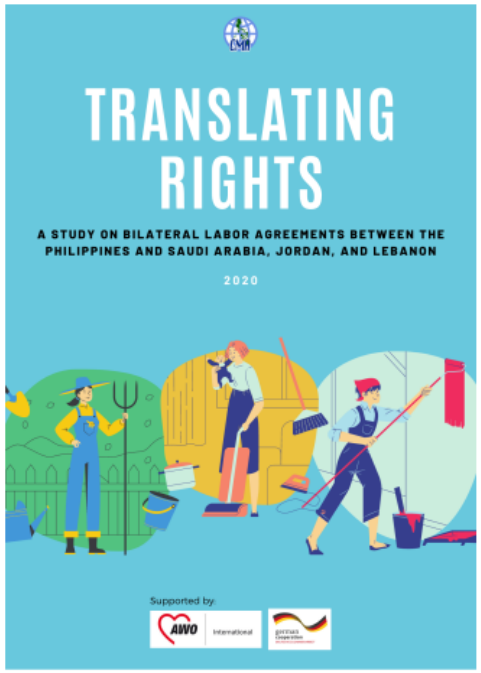
CMA Capacity Building on Paralegal and Access to Justice

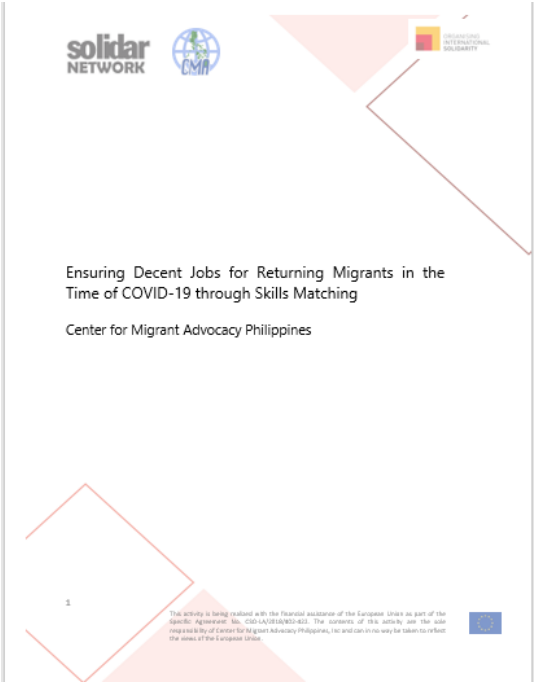
Introduction to Para-legal Work; Affidavits & Single Entry Aproach (SEnA)

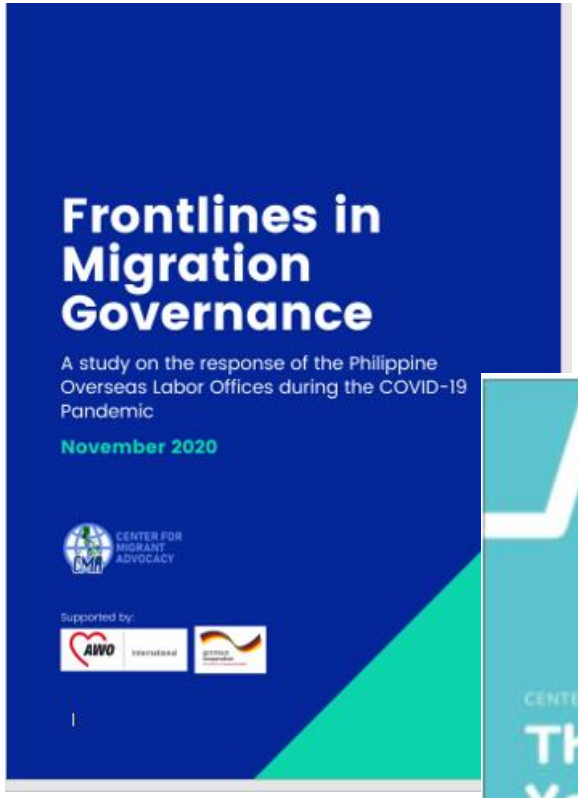
September 21, 2020,
Monday, 9:00 - 10:30am
Synchronous Session

Resource Person:
Atty. Henry S. Rojas

- President, Lawyers Beyond Borders Philippines
- Senior Partner, Rojas & Uy Law Offices
- Volunteer Legal Counsel of Center for Migrant Advocacy


TRANSLATING RIGHTS
A STUDY ON BILATERAL LABOR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, AND LEBANON
2020
Supported by:


solidar NETWORK
Ensuring Decent Jobs for Returning Migrants in the Time of COVID-19 through Skills Matching
Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines
1


Frontlines in Migration Governance
A study on the response of the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices during the COVID-19 Pandemic
November 2020
CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
Supported by:

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY
Through the Years
Trends in Filipino Migrant Domestic Workers' Complaints from 2016-2018 through the Center for Migrant Advocacy
WITH SUPPORT FROM:

PIDS Study 2 --Scoping Study on the Health and Social Security Literacy of Filipino Migrant Workers in East Asia

Ellene A. Sana

PIDS Webinar June 8, 2023

PIDS' Research Questions

1. What is known about social and health security systems in migrant-receiving countries in East Asia and migrant-sending countries such as the Philippines? --What OFWs are most familiar with is OWWA and some of its programmes.

I think if the technical side of the concepts are concerned – Not much, but migrants are aware that they must have medical and health insurance coverage in CODs, c/o employer

The "mandatory" nature of contributions to social security (in the Philippines and select CODS) as well as health security systems make these known to the migrants– since these are requirements by CODs and in Philippines, although prohibited – is oftentimes prerequisite to issuance of OEC

As such, these are seen more, I think as BAYARIN (imposed payments pa nga e) on the OFWs. This is especially the case with UHC's mandatory contribution which increases every year!

However, for those who are about to retire—they start to think of long-term benefits but still not sure and how and where they can avail of this. There seems also a high level of mistrust of SSS and Philhealth among OFW

To what extent do sending (Philippines) and receiving countries (Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan) ensure that migrant workers are informed about and access health and social security systems?

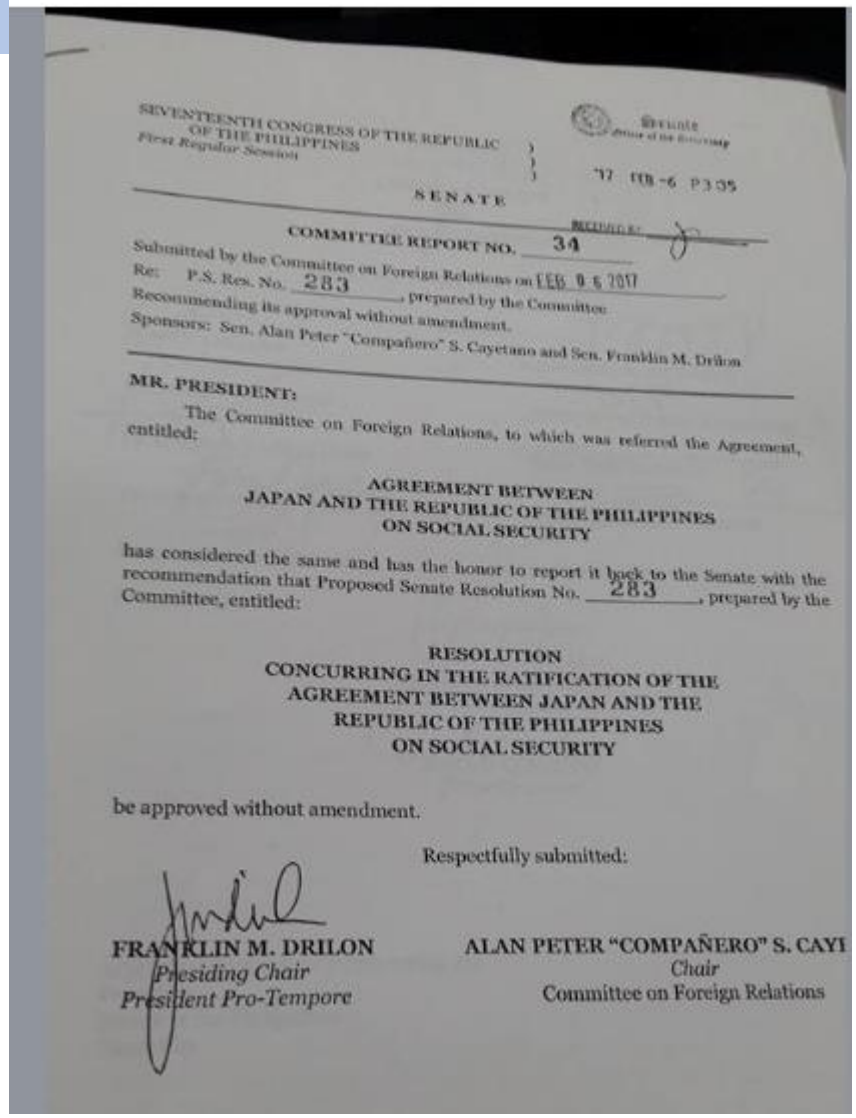
Not Sure.

If SSS has offices in these places, maybe there are efforts to inform the OFWs. Otherwise, simple reference to the websites does not help that much.

Case Study – Compulsory Insurance Coverage under RA10022, March 2010.

Everytime we conduct training programmes with OFWs and Migrant organizations, we will mention this and the scope of coverage and each time, they will say that they never heard of the compulsory insurance coverage – which covers disability, death, repatriation, medical evacuation, medical repatriation, compassionate visit, money claims and subsistence allowance.

Senate Ratifies SSA with Japan



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

Senate
Office of the Secretary

'17 FEB -6 P3:05

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 34

Submitted by the Committee on Foreign Relations on FEB 0 6 2017

Re: P.S. Res. No. 283, prepared by the Committee

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Sen. Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano and Sen. Franklin M. Drilon

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the Agreement, entitled:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON SOCIAL SECURITY

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that Proposed Senate Resolution No. 283, prepared by the Committee, entitled:

RESOLUTION
CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON SOCIAL SECURITY

be approved without amendment.

Respectfully submitted:

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Presiding Chair
President Pro-Tempore

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYE
Chair
Committee on Foreign Relations

February 6, 2017

SSA with Korea –not implemented yet. Signed Nov 2019

Are Filipino migrant workers in East Asia health and social security literate?

- You said systems literacy refers to how OFWs ACCESS, Are Familiar with, Understand, Utilize Information about health and social security systems in CODs and COOS--- maybe on the scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest, it will be 5– in general and for east asia and SG—maybe higher since these CODs have existing programs and systems

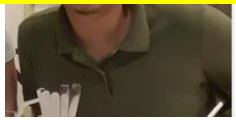
- I am inclined to give a lower rate but for example, access and availment of Philhealth by OFWs onsite and back in PH is significant –

- Para kasing kapag kailangan naman e me pamamaraan. Nalalaman kung saan at paano eventually….

Key Take Aways

- Be pro-active in informing and educating OFWs about social protection and social security –explain what these concepts are and why this is part of the basic human rights of migrants and decent work; Include the compulsory insurance coverage
- Explain the technical terms like portability, equality of treatment, totalization? Ano ba ang mga Ito? E.g. SSA with Korea – first version was opposed by OFWs themselves; second version in 2019 –Senate has yet to ratify; and OFWs are not informed neither consulted still on what the SSA package is comprised of.
- We welcome the initiative of OWWA R3 on TELE Konsulta global
- We welcome the formation of PMHN– DOH should ensure support to programs and activities of PMHN
- DMW should support efforts of SSS to promote importance of SSS on OFWs

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY

Thank you for your attention!

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