



MINISTRY ORDER NO. 0146
Series of 2023

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF CASH GRANTS UNDER THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR REPATRIATED ABUSED BANGSAMORO OFWS

I. LEGAL BASIS

Pursuant to Book VI, Title IX, Chapter 4, Section 17, (e) of the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 13, otherwise known as the "Bangsamoro Administrative Code", the Overseas Workers Welfare Bureau (OWWB) shall implement the welfare and protection programs for overseas workers.

II. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

It is depressing that various forms of maltreatment, abuse, and discrimination are still happening to some Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). As shown in the government data obtained by the Manila Standard, at least two Filipinos per day experienced violence in the form of physical abuse, sexual harassment, or rape in Kuwait in 2022.

According to the "*Cases of abuse against OFWs, 2020*", published by Statista Research Department, nearly five thousand cases of maltreatment of OFWs had been reported, the majority of which came from the Middle East with 4,302 cases and about 560,000 overseas workers were deployed from the Philippines in that year.

Although Filipinos are well-informed of the risks and downsides of working abroad, others still try their luck to work abroad and make a living for their family. In actual fact from Philippine Statistic Authority, the number of OFWs increased by 3.0 percent or 53.57 thousand overseas workers from 2020 to 2021. In 2020, OFWs were registered at 1.77 million, of which 1.71 million were OCWs and about 64 thousand were other Filipino workers abroad without valid working visa and work permits (Mapa, 2022).

Generations of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) have faced one form of crisis or another such as conflicts, economic downturns, natural disasters, and health scares in their destination countries or regions. This crisis endangered their lives, interrupted their employment, and forced some of them to return. With this, the Philippine Government is prompted to craft policies and action plans to protect and, if needed, repatriate OFWs.

The Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) through the Overseas Workers Welfare Bureau (OWWB) endeavors to implement the Assistance Program for Repatriated Abused Bangsamoro OFWs in its pursuit to intensify its welfare assistance program to repatriated Bangsamoro OFWs who suffered from distressful situations.

Hence, these Guidelines on the Provision of Cash Grants under the Assistance Program for Repatriated Abused Bangsamoro OFWs are hereby issued to ensure the effective and streamlined implementation of the above-stated MOLE program.





III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Assistance Program for Repatriated Abused Bangsamoro OFWs is an initiative to provide financial assistance amounting to ten thousand pesos (Php10,000) to repatriated distressed Bangsamoro OFWs.

IV. OBJECTIVES

General Objectives:

The program aims to provide immediate relief to repatriated distressed Bangsamoro OFWs.

Specific Objectives:

1. To provide financial assistance to repatriated distressed Bangsamoro OFWs; and
2. To welcome the repatriated distressed Bangsamoro OFWs by way of conducting a short program to make them feel special and valuable, and to let them know that their sacrifices are well recognized.

V. COVERAGE AND TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target beneficiaries of the program are the repatriated abused or distressed Bangsamoro OFWs who suffered from the following abusive situations such as;

- contract violation by the employer;
- verbal, physical, and sexual abuse;
- lack of decent accommodation;
- insufficient food;
- illegal recruitment and/or human trafficking; and
- other distressful situations.

VI. ELIGIBILITY AND DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR AVAILMENT

The following are the criteria that determine the eligibility of the Overseas Bangsamoro Worker (OBW) beneficiaries of this program and the documentary requirements:

1. Must be a bona fide resident of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).
2. Must returned or repatriated to the Philippines for the following reasons:
 - 2.1 Contract violation by the employer including but not limited to wrongful termination of the contract prior to completion of a two-year service, contract substitution, misrepresentation or fake job order, non-payment or underpayment of wages, long hours of work;
 - 2.2 Conflicts, economic downturns, natural disasters, and health conditions;
 - 2.3 Maltreatment, Physical, Psychological, and Sexual abuse of the employee;
 - 2.4 Evasion and/or rescued from an abusive employer; and
 - 2.5 Other distressful situations while working overseas.





3. Must arrived in the Philippines in the year 2019 onwards unless otherwise recommended by the minister of this ministry.
4. For regular OBWs, they may re-avail the said program whenever qualified, provided that, they shall only avail of the same once a year.
5. In the case of backdoor OBWs, they are eligible to avail of repatriation assistance only once.
6. Must present the following documents to the OWWB-MOLE:
 - Barangay Certificate as proof of residency in BARMM;
 - Passport (with recent Departure and Arrival stamp) or travel document;
 - Any proof of overseas employment including but not limited to an employment contract, work permit/visa, Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC), OWWA Member Profile, or OFW Information Sheet;
 - In case of no available passport and/or proof of employment, a travel document with indicated occupation, Certificate from POLO, OWWA, DFA, or Case Detail from OWWA is sufficient proof of overseas employment; and
 - In the event of a finished contract, a Certificate from POLO, OWWA, DFA, or Case Detail from OWWA, or any supporting documents as proof that the OFW is abused or distressed.
7. In case of the death of the approved beneficiary, the next of kin must provide the following documents:
 - Death Certificate of the Deceased Beneficiary;
 - Notarized Affidavit of Next of Kin;
 - Pictures of the deceased beneficiary; and
 - Valid ID of the next kin/dependent.
8. In case the beneficiary is of unsound mind to claim his/her cash assistance, the guardian must provide any document/s proving guardianship over the repatriated OBW.
9. In case the distressful situation of the OBW is of public knowledge, all the abovementioned documentary requirements except the travel document may be dispensed with subject to the discretion of the minister of this ministry. Thus, cash assistance shall be immediately given to the repatriated OBW.

VII. AVAILMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The Overseas Bangsamoro Workers must conform with the following process:

1. Submit their complete documentary requirements to the nearest Field Office or in Overseas Workers Welfare Bureau office;
2. Provide all of the needed information on the application form;





3. Attend the Orientation Seminar and Biometric Enrollment to be conducted by the Overseas Workers Welfare Bureau - Repatriation Assistance Division.
4. In the event that the beneficiary is not available to personally receive his/her cash assistance, he/she may authorize his/her spouse, parents, or children provided that, the authorized person shall present the following documents:
 - Special Power of Attorney;
 - Passport and valid ID of the beneficiary;
 - Valid ID of the authorized person; and
 - Any supporting documents as proof of valid reasons for the beneficiary's absence during the payout.

VIII. FUNDING SOURCE

The funding for the implementation of this program shall be charged to the annual budget of the Ministry of Labor and Employment-BARMM under the General Appropriations Act of the Bangsamoro (GAAB).

IX. REPEALING CLAUSE

All prior orders and issuances which are inconsistent with this order are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

X. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision or part of this order is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereof shall remain valid and effective.

XI. EFFECTIVITY

This order shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Bangsamoro Gazette or in a newspaper of regional circulation.

Issued in Cotabato City, this 30th day of MARCH 2023.

Ministry of Labor and Employment
RECORD SECTION
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Ministry of Labor and Employment
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RELEASED
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 By: Tatabai O. Omit

MUSLIMIN G. SEMA
 Minister