



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

**MINISTRY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

Bangsamoro Government Center, Gov. Gutierrez Ave., RH- VII, Cotabato City 9600



MINISTRY ORDER NO. 022ji
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**REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE
FOR RETURNING BANGSAMORO OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
UNDER THE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM: HANAPBUHAY FOR
BANGSAMORO BALIK MANGGAGAWA**

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) or Filipino workers who worked abroad during the period of April to September 2020 was estimated at 1.77 million. The remittances of these OFWs have helped boost the Philippine economy such that OFWs have been regarded as modern-day Filipino heroes.

Nevertheless, OFWs are constantly faced with critical issues like emotional problems caused by homesickness; culture shock on account of dealing with different customs and traditions; all types of maltreatment; job displacement due to economic difficulties of the host country, or unexpected circumstances like political instability and war; imprisonment; or are victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking or other distressful situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a general sense, with these complications, OFWs opt for repatriation and take a chance in finding new means of income-generation for their family even after their overseas employment.

However, economic reintegration remains the biggest challenge for many returning overseas workers, according to "Return and Reintegration to the Philippines", an information guide published by the Public Services International (PSI). While they may have gained experience and skills while working abroad, overseas workers find it hard to gain or maintain employment when they return. Some are forced to accept wages not commensurate to their abilities and experience. Those who have migrated irregularly as a desperate solution to lack of employment opportunities within the country come back only to face the same predicament.

Title IX, Chapter 1, Sec. 2 of the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 13, otherwise known as the "Bangsamoro Administrative Code" provides that the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) shall be the primary policy-making, programming, coordinating and administrative entity of the Bangsamoro Government in the field of labor and employment. It shall assume primary responsibility for the promotion of gainful employment opportunities and the optimization of the development and utilization of

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MOLE-BARMM

the Bangsamoro manpower resources; the advancement of workers' welfare by providing for just and humane working conditions and terms of employment; and the maintenance of industrial peace by promoting harmonious, equitable, and stable employment relations that assures equal protection for the rights of all concerned parties.

Title IX, Chapter 4, Sec. 17 (b) and (e) of the same law states that the Overseas Workers Welfare Bureau (OWWB) shall have the following functions: ~~XXX~~ b. Intensify welfare assistance program to ensure the safety of overseas workers; ~~XXX~~ e. Implement welfare and protection for overseas workers.

In view of the foregoing, the Reintegration Program: Hanapbuhay for Bangsamoro Balik Manggagawa has been formulated for which these Guidelines are hereby provided.

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Reintegration Program: Hanapbuhay for Bangsamoro Balik Manggagawa is a livelihood support/assistance intended to provide immediate relief to returning Overseas Bangsamoro Workers (OBWs).

The program is a package of livelihood assistance amounting TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 20,000.00) and training such as: a) entrepreneurial skills training and financial literacy seminar; (b) other capability training; and c) such other services that will enable the target beneficiaries to quick start a livelihood undertaking through self-employment.

III. OBJECTIVES

General Objectives:

The program aims to provide sustainable reintegration services to returning OBWs.

Specific Objectives:

1. To provide livelihood opportunities to returning Bangsamoro Overseas Filipino Workers through self-employment as income-generation after their overseas employment.
2. To provide basic entrepreneurial skills training, financial literacy seminar and other capability training to returning OBWs.

IV. COVERAGE AND TARGET BENEFICIARIES

In general, the target beneficiaries of this project are the returning OBWs who were displaced from their jobs due to war/political conflicts in host countries, policy reforms, controls, and changes by the host governments or are victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking or other distressful situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. APPLICATION PROCESS

The following shall be the process of application for the Reintegration Program, to wit:

1. The applicant will provide the required information by the MOLE-BARMM through online process as determined by the latter;
2. The applicant will upload and submit the requirements to the OWWB-MOLE as stated in the guidelines.
3. Upon submission of the requirements, the applicant will receive confirmation message or lack of requirements thereof;
4. The applicant must appear in person at the designated MOLE field offices and submit a photocopy of the same requirements they uploaded online; and submit a photocopy of the same requirements they uploaded online; and
5. Upon submission of the complete hard copies, the respective field office head and the applicant shall inform the head of Welfare and Protection Division under the OWWB-MOLE.

VI. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following are the requirements that determine the eligibility of the applicants for this program, to wit:

1. Must be a bona fide BARMM resident;
2. Must be an Overseas Bangsamoro Worker whose date of arrival in the Philippines was on **January 01, 2019 and onwards**;
3. Must have a monthly salary of not more than Thirty Thousand Pesos (PhP 30,000.00) or its equivalent as indicated on the employment contract submitted to MOLE.
4. Must not gainfully employed at the time of application;
5. Must submit the following documents to MOLE-BARMM:
 - Original and photocopy of accomplished Application Form;
 - Photocopy of passport or travel document;
 - Photocopy of proof of overseas employment [e.g. valid verified employment contract, overseas employment certificate (OEC), and work permit visa];
 - Photocopy of arrival stamp issued by the Bureau of Immigration upon arrival in the Philippines;
 - Accomplished Project/Business Proposal Form;
 - 2X2 ID picture;
 - Original copy of Barangay Certificate; and
 - Photocopy of airline ticket or boarding pass (if available).

VII. DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS

Qualified beneficiaries shall undergo entrepreneurial skills training, financial literacy seminar, and other capability training necessary to start their business undertaking

that would be conducted by personnel from the OWWB-MOLE and/or those from the Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT). Before the training commencement, qualified beneficiaries must present a valid ID and enroll themselves into the biometric device provided by OWWB-MOLE personnel. This is to ensure their identity throughout the process. Upon completion of the said training, they would be awarded a certificate as proof of completion. These trainings shall be conducted on a separate date from that of the disbursement of livelihood assistance.

The disbursement of the livelihood assistance or grant amounting to Twenty Thousand Pesos (PhP 20,000.00) shall be through check or cash card in a one-time payment. It shall be released only to those qualified beneficiaries who have complied with the following conditions:

1. Have complied with the application process and eligibility requirements provided under these guidelines;
2. Have completed the aforementioned training and with training certificate;
3. Have presented the duly notarized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the beneficiary and MOLE. The said MOU will be provided by the OWWB.
4. Have signed and placed his/her thumb mark on the disbursement voucher and required logbook prior to the release of the grant
5. Have complied with the taking of his/her photo while holding the check/cash card of the grant and his/her valid ID; and
6. Have complied with the finger print biometric validation.

However, in case of death of the qualified beneficiary on or before the release of the financial assistance, his/her relative within the 4th civil degree of consanguinity or affinity will be eligible to receive the same upon submission of latter's proof of kinship (to include but not limited to original or certified true copy of birth certificate, marriage certificate, and affidavit of kinship) and death certificate of the deceased beneficiary. Failure to meet these requirements shall result to the disqualification of the applicant from the program.

VIII. MONITORING

The designated OWWB personnel and/or the concerned MOLE Field Office personnel shall perform the monitoring and evaluation assessment of the accomplishment of the business proposal submitted by the beneficiaries of this program.

IX. FUNDING SOURCE

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) 2022.

X. REPEALING CLAUSE

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


XI. 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.

XII. 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, BARMM, Philippines, this _____ day of May 2023.


MUSLIMIN G. SEMA
Minister