

UAE and Philippines Announce Pilot Programme to Improve Recruitment Standards

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Abu Dhabi // The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, in partnership with the Government of the Philippines, is today announcing the launch of a pilot scheme that, if successful, will have major implications for the way that overseas workers are recruited into the UAE.

Under the terms of the pilot programme, which commences on October 1st 2017, UAE-based employers hiring Filipino workers in certain sectors will be able to recruit through dedicated government-backed channels.

The system, which is designed to improve recruitment standards and provide stronger protections to overseas workers, will enable both governments to have oversight over the terms and conditions of employment on offer, and ensure that contracts match promises made at the recruiting stage.

Details of which sectors will be eligible to participate are currently being finalised, but it is expected that efficiencies in the process will ensure that lower recruitment fees will be offered to employers that partner in the scheme.

The pilot programme will see a new electronic interface being established between the two governments, enabling the scrutiny of job adverts from employers and responses made by recruitment agents.

The programme has been developed in coordination with the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, a regional body that coordinates dialogue between GCC countries and Asian countries of labour origin, with inputs from international organisations and civil society.

Dr Omar Alnuami, Assistant Undersecretary, Communications and International Relations, said, "This is an important step forward in our commitment to implement ethical labour recruitment practices, and ensure that workers see their decision to work in the UAE as a positive and beneficial one.

"The overseas recruitment of workers is vital to the UAE economy, helping us to deliver on an ambitious programme of national development and growth, and the remittances that workers send back make a huge contribution to the economies of their home countries.

“It is paramount that workers arrive here knowing that the terms and conditions of their employment will match the promises that encouraged them to take up the roles offered to them. Not only is that fair, but providing that certainty will ensure that the UAE remains a competitive destination for skilled workers.

“Due to the oversight that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue has provided in the development of this pilot programme, there is the possibility that this system may be the basis for building a labour exchange not only between the UAE and the Philippines, but potentially between all major labour sending and receiving countries within Asia.

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