

**REPATRIATION EFFORTS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR OVERSEAS
FILIPINO WORKERS IN SELECTED MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES**

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ABSTRACT

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This study was conducted to: (1) identify the repatriation policies of the Philippine Government for Overseas Filipino Workers, particularly in Libya, Syria, and Yemen from 2011-2015; (2) identify the duties of government agencies involved in the repatriation of Overseas Filipino Workers; (3) identify the reasons of repatriating Overseas Filipino Workers in the Middle East countries; (4) determine the number of repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers from selected Middle East countries; and (5) determine the assistance given to Overseas Filipino Workers while in the process of repatriation and after repatriation.

The authors used secondary data obtained from the government agencies in the Philippines such as Department of Foreign Affairs – Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), Department of Labor and Employment-International Labor Affairs Bureau (DOLE-ILAB), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration-Repatriation and Assistance Division and Membership Processing Center (OWWA-RAD and MPC) and Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA-RU, AIRB, and LRO.)

The subjects were the population of Overseas Filipino Workers from Libya, Syria and Yemen, from year 2011 up to 2015. There are three (3) policies of the Philippine Government on repatriation of OFWS: the Republic Act No. 8042 (Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995) that was issued 15 July 1995; the Republic Act No. 10022

(an Act amending the Republic Act. 8042 otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended, further improving the standard of protection and promotion of the Welfare of Migrant Workers, their Families and Overseas Filipinos in distress and for other purposes) issued 10 March 2010, and the Executive Order No. 34 (Inter-ministerial Overseas Preparedness and Response Team) created on 6 April 2011.

Meanwhile, different Government Agencies have their own duties involved in the Repatriation of OFW. These government agencies have their own programs and services in the process and after repatriation. There was a total of 13 programs and services.

There were four (4) level alerts declared to a state depending on how complicated the situation is - Alert Level 1 (Precautionary Phase) to Alert Level 4 (Mandatory Repatriation).

There were 15,903 repatriates from Libya, 5,554 in Syria and 856 OFWs from Yemen, a total of 22,313 as of 2015.

Moreover, it was revealed that the Government of the Philippines highly supervised the repatriation of Filipinos and has an active involvement in different repatriation efforts.

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