



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

P R E S S R E L E A S E

PR-CBR- -2008

10 March 2008

ADVISORY ON INTERNET RECRUITMENT SCAM

NEW YORK – The public is advised about recruitment scams perpetrated by unknown individuals using fictitious company names or impersonating Philippine government officials to victimize Filipinos with promises of employment contracts in Europe.

One scam targeting Filipinos in the Middle East was reported by the Philippine Embassy in the Hague as having the following modus operandi:

- Overseas Filipinos receive a letter by email stating that the “Reserve Petroleum Nederland BV” (a fictitious company) has obtained and assessed their curriculum vitae and assures them of qualified employment in the Netherlands;
- The attached letter of appointment specifies the scope of work, as well as attractive salaries, benefits, grants and other entitlements;
- The recipient is then directed to pay a specified amount to cover processing fees for visa or work permit, purportedly required by the Ministry of Interior of the Netherlands;
- Once the recipient pays the amount requested, additional fees are requested to “register his documents”.

A second scam reported by the Philippine Embassy in London preys on manpower agencies based in the Philippines:

- The email senders claim to be officials of the British Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and use the official address of the agency in their letterhead, but use commercial internet service providers like Yahoo! and Hotmail in their communications with job seekers looking for employment in the United Kingdom.
- Payment for their services are coursed through legitimate money remittance service providers which operate from many cities in the Philippines.
- Others use the names of heads of British and Philippine government offices and agencies.

The Philippine Consulate General New York advises the public to view with suspicion recruitment procedures that require payment before deployment. It is strongly recommended that interested parties consult the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or any of the Philippine Foreign Service Posts to verify if the recruiting agency is legitimate.