



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 551
Series of 2018

**CREATION OF DOLE TASK FORCE AGAINST ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT,
RECRUITMENT OF MINOR WORKERS, AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

WHEREAS, despite efforts to eliminate illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons and recruitment of minor workers, reports indicate that these social menaces continue to proliferate and pose continuing threats to Filipino workers.

WHEREAS, it is of critical importance that the Department safeguard public interest and protect the welfare of Filipino workers from unscrupulous recruiters and syndicates who employ nefarious means to entice them to be employed abroad and locally under onerous and exploitative conditions.

WHEREAS, to continuously protect and prevent Filipino workers from being victimized by illegal recruiters and human traffickers and to bring to justice these perpetrators, there is a need to create of Task Force against Illegal Recruitment, Recruitment of Minor Workers and Trafficking in Persons in order for the Department to have a more focused, concerted, coordinated and effective programs of action to stop and eliminate illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons and recruitment of minor workers.

I. **Composition-** The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson - Undersecretary for Overseas Employment Administration

Vice Chairpersons - Administrator or its duly designated representative,
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)

- Director, Bureau of Local Employment (BLE)

Members:

- Administrator or its duly designated representative,
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)

- Director, International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB)
- Director, Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC)

The Chairperson may recommend to the Secretary the inclusion of other members to the Task Force as the circumstances and exigencies may require.

- II. **Functions** - The Task Force shall coordinate all programs and initiatives of the Department and its concerned attached agencies in addressing illegal recruitment, recruitment of minor workers, and trafficking in persons, which shall include, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Development and execution of strategies and schemes against the modus operandi of illegal recruiters, human traffickers and recruiters of minor workers;
 - b. Development and execution of strategies against syndicates responsible for tampering of birth records, securing spurious passports and travel documents; and
 - c. Recommend to the Secretary of Labor and Employment the prosecution of recruiters of minor workers, human traffickers and illegal recruiters and syndicates, their cohorts, protectors, and coddlers.

- III. **Powers** - In pursuit of its functions as defined in the preceding section, the taskforce shall have the responsibility and authority to:
 - a. Conduct surveillance and entrapment operations of persons alleged to be engaged in illegal recruitment;
 - b. Cause or direct the immediate investigation and speedy prosecution of cases involving illegal recruitment, recruitment of minor workers and trafficking in persons and monitor the progress of such cases;
 - c. Coordinate with existing bodies, agencies, and other instrumentalities currently involved in the campaign against illegal recruitment, recruitment of minor workers and trafficking in persons;
 - d. Request for the assistance of lawyers, operatives, and support staff from the Department of Labor and Employment and its attached agencies and Bureaus in such number as the circumstances and exigency of the service may require;

- e. Initiate and undertake such projects and activities in coordination and partnership with concerned government agencies, non-government organizations and private entities;
- f. Organize taskforces at the regional levels, in coordination with the concerned local government units and agencies; and
- g. Perform other powers and functions as may be deemed necessary by the Chairperson for the effective discharge of its mandate or as may be directed by the Secretary.

IV. **Operational and Law Enforcement Arm** - The Task Force shall enter in Memorandum of Agreement with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) for the latter to serve as the operational and law enforcement arms. They shall operate as a composite team with the members of the Task Force.

V. **Secretariat** - The POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch Office under the direct supervision of the Undersecretary for Overseas Employment Administration shall serve as the Secretariat of the Task Force, and shall prepare and submit periodic reports to the Secretary through the Chairperson.

The Secretariat shall also prepare an operational and procedural manual to guide the operations of the Task Force and to ensure that all existing laws, rules, and regulations are followed, and that basic rights of persons are protected.

VI. **Office** - The POEA shall provide sufficient space, office requirements, and utilities at its premises in the Blas F. Ople Building, EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City, to serve as the principal office of the Task Force, without costs to the latter.

VII. **Assistance and Cooperation** - The Task Force shall establish active coordination and cooperation with other government agencies and inter-agency councils and/or committees involved in the campaign against illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons and recruitment of minor workers. For this purpose, the Secretary may call upon the heads of these government agencies for assistance, as may be necessary.

- VIII. **Funding.** The Department and the member agencies are authorized to allocate from their existing funds against illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons such amounts as may be necessary for the additional funding requirements that may be needed by the Task Force subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Funding for the succeeding years shall be incorporated in the Department's and attached agencies respective regular appropriations.

For guidance and compliance.



SILVESTRE H. BELLON III
Secretary

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