

PRESS RELEASE

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138 Stranded Filipinos in Bahrain return to the Philippines through the Repatriation Program of the Philippine Embassy



(Manama, 26 August 2021) – 138 stranded Filipino nationals in Bahrain arrived in the Philippines today through the Repatriation Program of the Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Amid the ongoing COVID pandemic, many of the passengers have been stranded in Bahrain for weeks or even months due to limitations in flights and seats from Bahrain to the Philippines. The exorbitant cost of airfare also prevented many of the passengers to book earlier flights to the Philippines.

Through the efforts of the Philippine Embassy, a special repatriation flight was arranged to ferry the stranded Filipinos via Gulf Air's direct commercial flight. The Embassy, using the Assistance-to-Nationals Fund of the Department of Foreign Affairs, shouldered the airfare of most of the passengers availing of a negotiated rate with Gulf Air to allow more Filipino nationals to benefit from the repatriation program. The Embassy also coordinated with DFA-OUMWA, OWWA and other agencies for the exemption of the repatriates from the arrival limitations as well as for the facilitation of quarantine facilities for the repatriates.

The repatriates included infants and children, overstaying OFs, pardoned detainees, medical patients, pregnant women, and wards at the Embassy Shelter.

The Embassy continues to provide assistance in repatriating stranded Filipinos in Bahrain as part of the Philippine Government's COVID-19 response program, to repatriate distressed Overseas Filipinos from all over the world.