

PHL Embassy in Manama, Bahrain Conducts Forum on Flexi Visa



The Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), organized a Forum on Flexi Visa on 05 October 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Swiss International Hotel in Gudaibiya, Kingdom of Bahrain. Mr. Ausamah Al Absi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bahrain's Labour Market Authority (LMRA) and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, was the Resource Speaker of the Forum. Around 200 members of the Filipino community attended the Forum.

Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver welcomed the participants and acknowledged the presence of LMRA CEO Ausamah Al Absi and the officers and staff of the LMRA. He congratulated Mr. Al Absi for Bahrain's promotion to Tier 1 in the US Department of State 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report, which affirms the Kingdom's commitment to deal with trafficking and exploitation.



Ambassador Ver revealed that a total of 1,300 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Bahrain are eligible to apply for a Flexi Visa according to a list provided by the LMRA. Ambassador Ver expressed hope that those qualified to apply for the Flexi Visa will take this opportunity to legalize their status in Bahrain. He explained that the Philippine Government would shoulder the Flexi Visa Application Fee (449 BHD) 1st monthly fee (35BHD) and 2nd monthly fee (30BHD) or a total of 514 BHD per applicant.



LMRA's CEO Ausamah Al Absi explained that Bahrain's Flexible Work Permit or the "Blue Card" is a new type of work permit that allows illegal workers, who meet certain conditions, to work and reside in the Kingdom of Bahrain without a sponsor, in any non-professional job, full or part-time, and with one or more employers. He further explained that holders of the flexi visa will benefit from free health care at government centers, and that they will also be able to leave and return to Bahrain on a regular basis during the work visa's validity period.

Moreover, monthly fees may be paid through any branch of the Bahrain Financing Company (BFC), a company that provides Money Transfer and Currency Exchange services.

Mr. Al Absi also responded to queries posed by members of the Filipino community, ranging from the advantages and disadvantages of having the flexi work permit, application procedure, requirements, and fees.



Mr. Al Absi ended his speech by encouraging Filipinos in Bahrain to check their eligibility to apply for flexible work permit by sending their CPR numbers via text message to 33150150 or by visiting the LMRA Website: lmra.bh. Those eligible to apply were instructed to proceed to the LMRA Sitra Branch for the filing of their application. END.