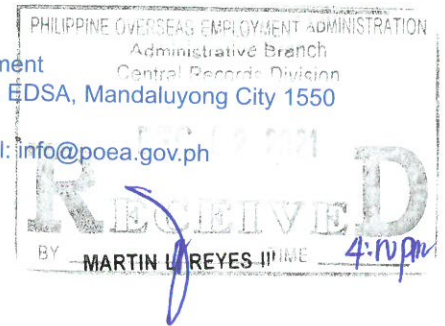




**Philippine
Overseas
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**Warning on fake offers of overseas employment
arising from data leaks and privacy breaches**

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) warns the public regarding the recent surge in SMS phishing, or smishing. In smishing, text messages promising employment and high salaries are sent to trick users to click on suspicious links. These links then redirect users to fraudulent sites when clicked. These sites may steal users' personal data, introduce mobile malware, and even commit fraud.¹


Applicants for overseas employment are reminded to avoid clicking on suspicious links, especially those coming from services and numbers which they did not sign up for. The public is also advised to block these numbers and report these smishing incidents to their telecommunications provider, the National Privacy Commission, and the National Telecommunications Commission.

The public is also advised to be vigilant in protecting their contact information and other sensitive personal information, such as copies of their government-issued identification cards and documents, in order to avoid receiving spam and fraudulent messages, or falling victim to unlawful activities such as identity theft and cyber extortion.

The POEA reiterates its warning in Advisory No. 32, Series of 2021, regarding the "Please read and understand" scam, wherein individuals and/or entities copy the information of licensed recruitment agencies, such as its name and the name of its authorized representative, to promise employment to other countries, and ask payment from applicants for document processing, training, or slots for online orientations and seminars. The public is advised to ignore these messages and refrain from transferring any amount of money to these scammers.

Overseas job seekers are advised to use the POEA Verification System at the POEA website (www.poea.gov.ph) or email the POEA Information Center at connect@poea.gov.ph to confirm overseas employment offers. The POEA also encourages the public to immediately report any suspicious recruitment activities to the Operations and Surveillance Division via email at osd@poea.gov.ph. Information on avoiding recruitment scams is available at the POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/airbranch.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

¹ National Privacy Commission PHE Bulletin No. 21 Preventive Data Privacy Practices Against Smishing, October 7, 2021. Available at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2021/10/npc-phe-bulletin-no-21-preventive-data-privacy-practices-against-smishing/>

