DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 212-A
Series of 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF “DOLE-AKAP FOR OFWS”

Further to Department Order No. 212, series of 2020, providing the guidelines on the provision of financial assistance for displaced landbased and seafarer Filipino workers affected by COVID-19 (DOLE-AKAP for OFWs), the following amendment / supplemental guidelines are hereby issued to further expand the coverage of the program and facilitate faster evaluation of POLOs in DOLE-AKAP applications of onsite OFWs:

I. COVERAGE AND ELIGIBILITY

Section I-b (Qualified undocumented OFWs) on Coverage of DO 212, s. 2020 shall be revised to include the following:

iv. Undocumented workers who were terminated/stranded/displaced as of February 2020 and who have not undertaken steps to regularize their status and are not active OWWA members at the time of application.

Section II-1 on Eligibility under DO 212, s. 2020, shall be amended to read as follows:

1. Those who have experienced job displacement (terminated; stranded; or no work, no pay arrangement) due to the receiving country’s imposition of lockdown or community quarantine starting February 2020.

Section II-2 on Eligibility under DO 212, s. 2020, shall include those:

2. Who are still at overseas jobsites; or stranded in the Philippines or countries where POLOs are present; or in the Philippines as Balik Manggagawa; or repatriated to the Philippines.

Section II on Eligibility under DO 212, s. 2020 shall include the following:

4. Those whose employers have imposed at least 25% reduction in their monthly salaries due to the receiving country’s imposition of lockdown or community quarantine starting February 2020

5. Holders of expired iqama/visa but with pending application for renewal as of February 2020;
II. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Under Section IV-A on Application procedures of DO 212, s. 2020, item 1 shall be revised as follows:

a. Applicants with active OWWA membership at the time of application, whether under the category of regular/documented OFW or qualified undocumented OFW, will only have to present the following documents for evaluation:

1. Accomplished DOLE-AKAP application form;
2. Data page of valid Philippine Passport; or Travel Document;
3. Proof of Displacement/Loss of Employment due to COVID-19 (Notice of Termination/Employer’s Certification/Worker’s Self-Undertaking/Payslip for those with reduced salaries, etc.)

The same requirements will be required for undocumented workers who have not undertaken steps to regularize their status and are not active OWWA members at the time of application.

b. OFWs who are not active OWWA members and who fall under the categories of Regular/Documented Workers and Qualified Undocumented OFWs who have undertaken actions to regularize their status as defined under the DO 212, s. 2020, must submit the following documents for evaluation:

1. Accomplished DOLE-AKAP application form
2. Data page of valid Philippine passport
3. Proof of Documented Status and Overseas Employment (Valid Overseas Employment Contract verified by the POLO, OEC, residence ID, visa, permit to stay, etc.)
4. Proof of Displacement/Loss of Employment due to COVID-19 (Notice of Termination, Employer’s Certification/Worker’s Self-Undertaking, Payslip for those with reduced salaries, etc.)

POLOs may require alternative documents from applicants in lieu of documentary requirements mentioned above, in case of difficulty or inability to submit the same by the applicants.

Once approved, the concerned POLO shall release the USD 200 or its equivalent in local currency through bank transfer, money remittance, physical distribution, or any cost-effective method of payment that the POLO can utilize for the purpose of distributing the financial assistance.

III. EFFECTIVITY

a. This Department Order partially amends and supplements Department Order No. 212, series of 2020 and shall take effect immediately.

b. The supplemental guidelines may be applied retroactively. As such, previously denied applicants who now qualify under this issuance may be reconsidered by POLOs.

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Secretary