

Empowering OFWs: A Collaborative Commitment

Ople Center, POEA, and LGUs Join Forces in Fight Against Trafficking through Memorandum of Understanding

Alhakim B. Palangalan

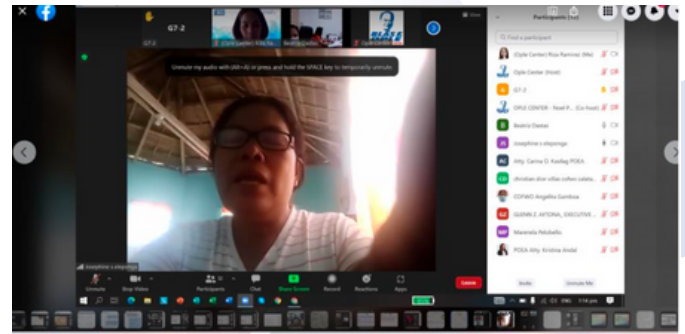


On February 2, 8, and 10, 2022, the Ople Center, in partnership with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Calatagan, Cabuyao, and Pateros, took a significant step forward in the battle against trafficking by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU's signing marked a united effort to bolster Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Trafficking in Person Campaigns.

This groundbreaking MOU, endorsed by all participating parties, seeks to reinforce the information campaign on national policies, as well as programs and services accessible to the public and migrant workers. It places a particular emphasis on welfare services, anti-illegal recruitment, anti-trafficking in persons, skills training, reintegration, and public information and education.

The core objective of this initiative is to empower the public, migrant workers, and their families by providing access to online modules that educate them about their rights, as well as the programs and services extended by the Philippine government. This inclusive approach aims to raise awareness and equip individuals with the knowledge they need to protect themselves and others from illegal recruitment and trafficking.

The MOU's signing signifies a critical step towards eradicating trafficking and enhancing the safety and well-being of migrant workers and their families. It demonstrates a unified commitment to the cause, bringing together government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local authorities in a shared endeavor to combat trafficking and offer a brighter future for all.



Ople Center, OFW Federation Leaders, and POEA Collaborate on Case Conference to Support OFWs

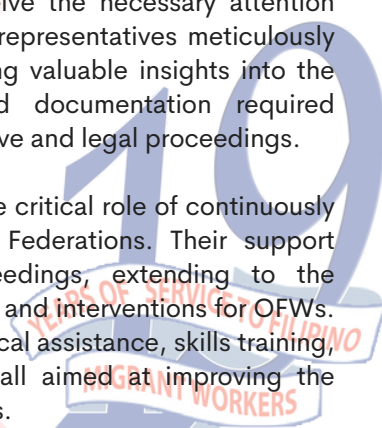
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In a notable demonstration of commitment to the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the Ople Center, along with OFW Federation Leaders and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), recently conducted a comprehensive case conference focused on addressing handled cases of the federation.

On March 18, the three organizations convened for a meeting designed to provide guidance and support to OFW leaders concerning the cases they are handling. This initiative was initiated as a follow-through activity following the signing of the Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons (AIRTIP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

During the conference, the OFW Federation of Calatagan had the opportunity to present their cases to both the POEA and the Ople Center. They sought guidance on the most appropriate courses of action to ensure that the cases receive the necessary attention and follow-through. POEA representatives meticulously reviewed each case, offering valuable insights into the additional information and documentation required before initiating administrative and legal proceedings.

The Ople Center took on the critical role of continuously guiding and assisting the Federations. Their support goes beyond legal proceedings, extending to the provision of various services and interventions for OFWs. These services include medical assistance, skills training, and livelihood assistance, all aimed at improving the lives and prospects of OFWs.



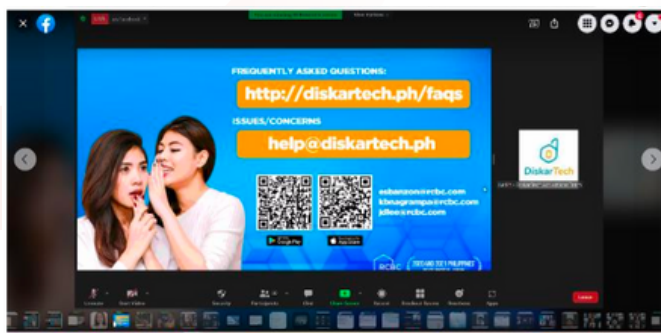
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This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of the Ople Center, OFW Federation Leaders, and POEA to provide comprehensive support and resources to OFWs, ensuring that their rights are protected, and their well-being is enhanced. The case conference represents a significant step in addressing the unique challenges faced by OFWs and working towards their betterment.

The RCBC-Ople Center collaboration underscores their commitment to supporting OFWs and their families by enhancing financial literacy, empowering small businesses, and fostering financial inclusion. Through initiatives like the DiskarTech caravan, these organizations are not only connecting OFWs to essential financial services but also paving the way for a more secure and prosperous future for them and their loved ones.

RCBC and Ople Center Launch DiskarTech Caravan to Empower OFWs and Families

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Online Orientation on Versatile App Connects OFWs to Financial Services and Business Opportunities.

On March 8, the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) partnered with the Ople Center to initiate a groundbreaking online caravan aimed at providing orientation for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) on the utility of the DiskarTech app. This versatile application serves as a multifunctional platform, enabling users to pay various bills, make bank deposits, purchase mobile load, and access a range of essential financial services.

The online caravan was conducted through Zoom and Facebook Live, collectively reaching an impressive audience of approximately 1,300 people. This platform offered an opportunity for OFWs and their families to gain an in-depth understanding of the DiskarTech app and how it can significantly enhance their financial capabilities.

Beyond facilitating convenient financial transactions, the DiskarTech caravan also emphasized the potential of the app to serve as a valuable tool for home-based and small businesses. By providing an additional income stream for these businesses, the caravan aims to strengthen economic stability for OFWs and their families.

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