DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO FISHERMEN USING TRANSIT VISA

The UK Border Agency has advised that non-E.U. fishermen who are recruited to work in the UK fishing industry are required to have valid work visas and employment contracts fully compliant with U.K. employment law and standards, particularly on the legal minimum wage. The UK Border Agency had advised vessel owners to immediately comply with the immigration laws in order to avoid “removal” or “deportation” of their illegal migrant fishermen.

To address the present situation of Filipino fishermen currently in the UK, and to allow further consultation with UK vessel owners and skippers, the UK Minister of State for Border and Immigration Phil Woolas has agreed to apply transitional arrangements in the next two months. In the meantime, no deportation or removal will take place and transit visas will not be issued nor honored for new workers.

In view of the recent UK policy pronouncement and pending the implementation of the proposed transitional arrangement, the public is advised that Filipino fishermen recruited to work in the UK fishing industry should be in possession of valid work visas and employment contracts for the issuance of POEA exit clearance.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

[Signature]
JENNIFER JARDIN-MANALILI
Administrator

(Source: POLO-London)