

FILIPINA TRAFFICKED IN IRAQI CITY REPATRIATED TO PH

MANILA -- A female overseas Filipino worker (OFW) was brought home on Thursday a year after she was trafficked in Iraq. Philippine Vice Consul to Iraq Jom Sadie said the OFW, named "Joyce", arrived in Manila at about 4:30 p.m. In a lengthy post on the Facebook page of the Philippine Embassy in Iraq on Wednesday, Sadie said Joyce was initially promised a job in Dubai but found out she was to be transported to Iraq using a Kurdistan work visa. "For three days, Joyce was transported by car from Erbil to Basra, because the

visa she holds is not valid for travel to the rest of Iraq. During that trip, she was transferred from one car to another at least five times in order to avoid inspection at various checkpoints that pepper their route," the envoy narrated. "She got lucky. At least 21 other Filipinos experienced traveling the same route from July to December of 2018. Some were detained, two were allegedly kidnapped, several were molested during the journey," he noted. Although Joyce did not experience the ordeal of her fellow OFWs in transit to

Basra, she suffered maltreatment in the hands of her employer. "Last October, Joyce managed to escape the maltreatment she was enduring from her employer in Basra and she traveled to Baghdad amidst the protest and violence that erupted in that city during that month. She stayed in the Embassy for a few months alongside the others," Sadie narrated. In December 2018, a day before Joyce's supposed flight, her employer filed a case against her and she was detained at the airport. It was only this month, through the Embassy's fa-

cilitation, that Joyce was released. "I see Joyce enjoying a cigarette in the other car in our convoy that's running fast to the airport as I type this. The girl is finally free. And she is celebrating on her own," wrote Sadie, who accompanied the Filipina to the airport. Following her release, the Embassy issued a reminder to Filipinos eyeing jobs in Dubai with shady details to observe vigilance. "May this story serve as a warning to always be careful. If the offer is too good to be true, it is not true," it said. (PNA)

DepEd backs bill on tax relief to employers of ALS learners, grads

MANILA -- The Department of Education on Wednesday lauded the bill that would give tax relief to employers who will hire graduates or participants of its Alternative Learning System (ALS). Senate Bill 1046 proposes a 10 percent slash in the taxable income of employers based on the gross salaries of employees who are either ALS learners or ALS graduates. ALS is a parallel learning system encompassing informal, non-formal, and indigenous as an alternative to the existing formal education. "Wine-welcome natin ito kasi ang magbe-benefit dito ay ang iyong mga learners na hinikayat nating makatapos kahit

na marami silang challenges and obstacles sa buhay (We welcome this because the ones who will benefit from this are learners who we encourage to finish school even if they have a lot of challenges and obstacles in life)," Education Undersecretary Annalyn Sevilla said in a television interview. Sevilla added such incentive would be a great motivation for out-of-school youths to go back to school and "to avail of the ALS". "But, kailangan din natin magkaroon ng study rito kasi baka imbes na magkaroon ng maraming pumunta sa formal schooling, ay mag-ano naman ang informal, what I mean is, ayaw nating ma-short cut din

(we need to have a study on this because instead of having [more learners] attend formal schooling, they'd rather do informal [schooling], what I mean is, we don't want short cuts also)," she said. In an earlier interview, Commission on Higher Education chief J. Prospero de Vera III said ALS graduates can now proceed to higher education in colleges and universities of their choice nationwide even while they are working. "I have signed a memorandum to instruct all higher education institutions to accept all ALS graduates. This will facilitate their enrollment, they are open to apply to the universities but they have to compete with everyone else because admission to public universities is now very competitive," he said. (PNA)

DOLE hopeful of Congress nod on illegal alien workers' deportation

MANILA — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is hoping that Congress will give the agency the authority to penalize illegal foreign

workers in the country. DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III noted that they are also hoping to be able to sanction companies which hired these workers. "I think it will be good if Congress will consider granting punitive authority to the DOLE. It's not just punishing workers without permits. This will also include those who hired them even if they do not have permits, whether it is suspension of their operation permit or license to operation," Bello told reporters in Filipino on Thursday. Bello said there are concerted efforts to go after these illegal foreign workers or those who are working without alien employment permits (AEPs). "If they are found to be working without alien employment permit, then what the department could do is merely recommend through the Bureau of Immigration that they be deported and blacklisted," he added. Bello said they are also inspecting special economic zones and Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs).

Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will Amen. O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU!



Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy on us and on the whole world Amen.

3 O’CLOCK PRAYER

“You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.”

“O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!”

“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (3x) Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

AFTER ACTIVITY REPORT PALARONG BICOL 2019

The Province of Masbate was the host for this year’s Palarong Bicol, DepEd Regional Director Gilbert Sadsad, Schools Division Superintendent Bebiano Sentillas of the SDO Masbate Province graced the opening ceremonies for the Palarong Bicol last February 24, 2019 at the Masbate City Sports Complex, Masbate City. Prior to the parade on the opening day, there was a Zumba Run and Tree Planting Activity at Mayong, Payong, Mobo Masbate at 4:30 a.m. This annual sports competition was participated by thirteen (13) divisions of public schools under the Department of Education in the Bicol Region. It includes teams from the seven (7) cities: Iriga, Legazpi, Ligao, Masbate, Naga, Sorsogon and Tabaco, also from the six (6) provinces: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon. The organizers estimated that there were more than 20,000 delegates who competed on the said event. The opening for all games started on February 25 at the above-mentioned sports complex and other playing venues. All games ended on March 1 and closing ceremonies was held last March 2, 2019. The Bureau of Fire Protection Masbate under the direct supervision of the Provincial Fire Marshal SRINSP GERALD ELINO B LAVADIA, REE is designated by the DepEd. (DAN DANA0)