

INTERVENTION

delivered by

Mr. JARIE R. OSIAS

Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs
of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs
during the Round Table 2

"Protecting Migrants through Rights-Based Border Governance and Border Management Measures (Addressing Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21)"
under Agenda Item 3 of UNESCAP's Regional Review of the
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

"Thank you, Your Excellency, for this opportunity to intervene for the Philippines during this Round Table.

With respect to border governance and border management measures, it takes the synergy, cooperation and confluence of the many Philippine government agencies for us to protect our Filipino migrants.

We have the Philippine Statistics Authority which is in charge of authenticating the premise civil registration documents of our citizens, such as the birth certificate and marriage certificate required to establish identity.

Using these authenticated premise documents, it is my agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs which is in charge of issuing the state-of-the-art Philippine electronic passport with the biometrics of our citizens. The Philippine passport can only be issued if a person's identity is properly established using the official documents issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

On the other hand, it is the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration which is in charge of documenting our migrant workers, by making sure their foreign labor contracts are verified and in compliance with our laws designed to protect our migrant workers.

At our points of departure, it is the Philippine Bureau of Immigration which ensures that all departing Filipino migrant workers are properly documented and not potential victims of human trafficking. The Bureau of Immigration has the authority to offload or prohibit the departure of passengers who could be victims of human trafficking or illegal recruitment.

Once abroad, the Philippine government has a network of 94 Philippine Embassies and Consulates General all over the world which are mandated to protect and ensure the wellbeing of all overseas Filipinos anywhere in the globe.

Our Embassies and Consulates General in coordination with the Office for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Philippine Department of Affairs, take charge of providing timely assistance to our overseas nationals in distress, including those who are of irregular status or undocumented abroad.

Many of our Embassies and Consulates General also have Philippine Overseas Labor Offices to ensure that our documented workers abroad are properly protected and their work contracts complied with and respected by their foreign employers.

In conclusion, and as explained, I wish to highlight that the Philippines under the leadership of our President Rodrigo Roa Duterte practices a whole-of-government approach in the protection of our overseas Filipinos, irrespective of their status, anywhere in the world.

Thank you, Your Excellency. Good afternoon."