

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11227, February 22, 2019]

AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) TO DEVELOP, PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE AND UPDATE A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Handbook for OFWs Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. *Creating a Handbook for Overseas Filipino Workers.* - The handbook for overseas Filipino workers, known in this Act as "Handbook", shall be created and issued to every land-based and sea-based worker free of charge. It shall serve as a ready reference for migrant workers when they need to assert their rights and responsibilities. It shall also deal with key issues that they need to know in order to maintain decent employment conditions overseas.

The contents of the Handbook shall be written in English with translations in local languages as may be necessary.

SEC. 3. *Objectives of the Handbook.* ~ The objectives of creating a Handbook are as follows:

- (a) To empower every overseas Filipino worker (OFW) by making them fully aware of their rights and responsibilities;
- (b) To complement the worker education program of various agencies;
- (c) To provide a basic information on the labor and living conditions in the country of their destination;
- (d) To make the workers well aware of the benefits and drawbacks of working overseas; and
- (e) To provide necessary information for their reintegration into the Philippine society.

SEC. 4. *Amendment.* - Subparagraph (b.l) of paragraph (b) of Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows: