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PROCESSING OF VISA FOR TEMPORARY WORKERS BOUND FOR CANADA

<DIV ALIGN=JUSTIFY>The Canadian Embassy in Manila has provided information on the issuance of visas for temporary workers intending to work in Canada to ensure that prospective workers and employers comply with Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations.

According to the Embassy, processing of visa application is on a first come, first served basis. This is to ensure that the processing of visa applications is treated in a fair manner as possible. Due to the growing number of visa applications received which has resulted to backlogs, efforts are being made to shorten the processing time of visa applications. The Embassy is currently processing applications which were submitted 18 weeks ago.

The following are some processing tips in order to facilitate the processing of Temporary Work Permit applications:

- Visa applicants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible on the following:
 - The mode of recruitment i.e. whether the worker was recruited through a recruitment agency or through relatives or contracts.
 - The mode of selection i.e. whether the worker was selected through an interview, written exam or any other procedures.
 - The steps taken to verify the worker's level of competency in education, experience and of the English language.
- The type of compensation the worker will receive.
- Visa applicants are required to submit an NBI Clearance. However, NBI Clearance with notation of "No Criminal Record" indicates that there may be a criminal concerns and the visa application may take longer to process.
- Visa applicants are required to pass an Immigration Medical Examination at a Designated Medical Practitioner to ensure their medical fitness prior to the issuance of a Temporary Work Permit. The medical examination request will normally be made at the same time with the visa application but it does not mean the visa application is accepted.
- All work permit applications will cost CDN\$150 or its equivalent and is not refundable in case of visa denial. Payment in Canadian dollars is recommended rather than in Philippine pesos.
- Visa applicants should provide evidence that they will return to the Philippines. Applicants who have been unemployed for several years, single and has close