

Welcome to the seventh **Citizen Helpdesks Bulletin**! The Citizen Helpdesks is a group of young volunteers we call Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) who gather and disseminate information on critical issues affecting Nepali citizens- to eliminate information gaps between the government, the media, donor organizations and communities; and improve collective decision-making.

Rumours

KHARANITAAR, NUWAKOT

“Paying less to go for foreign employment means harder jobs and even lesser salary.”



SINDHUKOT, SINDHUPALCHWOK

“Why are the government agencies themselves ignorant about ‘free visa free ticket’ policy?”

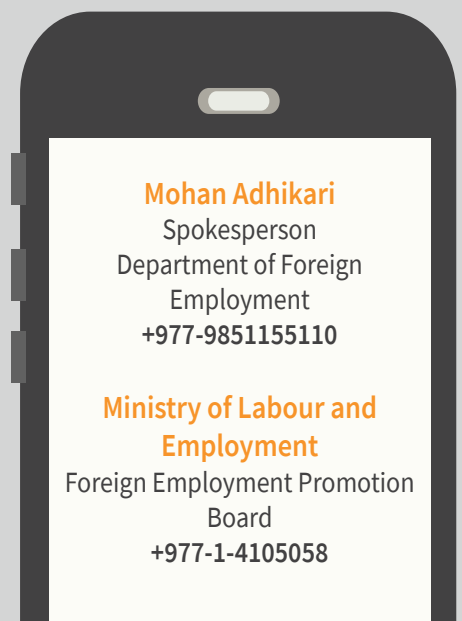
Answers

As per the rules and nature of work, the foreign companies create a type of remuneration to be given

beforehand as per which the work contract is created. The type of remuneration the workers will get and the nature of work is shaped by the company’s rules. Therefore, the nature of job and salary level is not affected by the amount of payment made to obtain that job.

Back in 2015, it was decided at the assistant ministry level to regulate a ‘free visa and free ticket’ for Malaysia, Saudi Arab, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. However, this decision was not included in the Nepal Government’s official journal. Neither has this been mentioned in Nepal’s Department of Foreign Employment’s Law.

As per their demand for workers, the companies of the above mentioned countries make an agreement with authorized manpower companies in Nepal.



Concerns

BIDHUR, NUWAKOT

“They say that all the earthquake survivors eligible for the grant or beneficiaries have to take the first installment of the earthquake relief money by this October (Kartik)!”



IRKHU, SINDHUPALCHOWK

“When is the deadline for receiving the earthquake relief money? There is a rumour that all the relief money have to be claimed by 2075 (2018 AD) or else they won’t be available.”

Answers

Nepal Reconstruction Authority has confirmed the deadline for receiving the relief money for house reconstruction. So, the beneficiaries have to claim all the due grant amount by end of Asadh 2075 (July 2018).

According to the specified time and format:

- Those recognized as beneficiaries have to sign the relief agreement and claim the first installment by the end of Kartik (October 2017) this year.
- The beneficiaries who have already received the first installment in 2073 (2017 AD) and those who will be receiving it by the end of this Kartik have to claim the second installment by the end of Poush and Chaitra (January-April 2018) respectively.
- The beneficiaries receiving the second installment by the end of Poush and those receiving them by the end of Chaitra have to claim the third installment by the end of Jestha 2075 and Asadh 2075 (June-July 2018) respectively.

Dr. Bishma Kumar Bhusal

Deputy Spokesperson
National Reconstruction
Authority
+977-9851127757

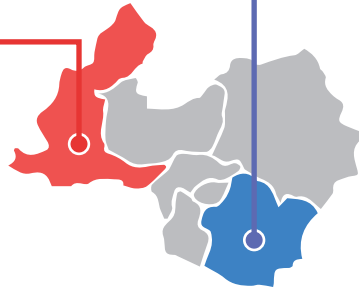
National Reconstruction Authority

+977-1-4211484

Questions

SHIDHHALEKH, D HADING

“I submitted money to the manpower company to go to Malaysia for employment. I received my visa but neither have they sent me to Malaysia nor have they returned the money. Even my passport is with them. Won't we have our money returned once paid?”



MAHADEVSTHA, KAVREPALANCHWOK

“My brother started the process with a manpower company to go to Dubai for job. His visa arrived but he wasn't able to go due to some family reasons. Will the manpower company return the money or not.”

Answers

The authorized manpower company has to send the worker to foreign country of employment within the specified time as per the contract or within three months if the time is not specified in the contract.

If the manpower is unable to send the worker to the country of destination within the specified time, then it has to repay the money received from the worker plus 20% interest rate per annum on it within 30 days.

And if the worker denies or resist from going abroad after receiving the entry permit, then the authorized manpower has to return the entire money to the worker after cutting only the visa fee.

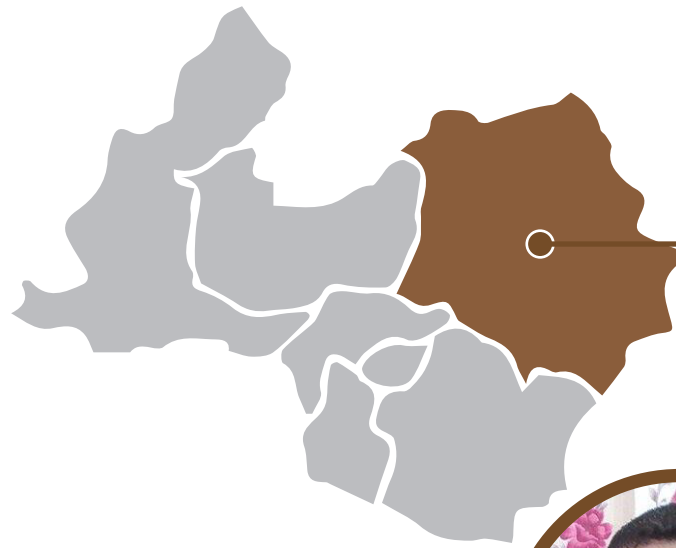
But, in case of denial from the worker to go abroad due to the variation between the information provided in the advertisement and the actual contract, then the authorized manpower company cannot even cut the visa fee.

Mohan Adhikari
Spokesperson
Department of Foreign Employment
Kathmandu
+977-9851155110

**Nepal Government's Ministry of
Foreign Employment**
Foreign Employment Promotion
Board
+977-1-4105058

Insights

Story from the Field



Bishwa Khadka Chautara, Sindhupalchowk

Having sweated for years in Gulf countries and returned to Nepal, Bishwa Khadka from Chautara, Sagachwokgadii Municipality-10 does not think of going back there ever again. His quest for opportunity and financial growth took him time and again to the gulf countries. Khadka also flew to Saudi back in 2059 (2012 AD) adding to the line of people immigrating due to lack of employment opportunity and maoist insurgency in Nepal. After spending 3 years in Saudi, he returned to Nepal, disappointed, and again flew to Qatar. However, he was not given a job as promised in Qatar either. So, he returned home within 55 days after making up his mind to do something here itself.

In Nepal, he started a buffalo farming and sold tea. The business did well and he expanded his tea shop to a restaurant. Soon after, he rented a small land on the outskirts of his village and started a poultry farming which also supported the growth of his economic standards. He didn't stop there. He started out as a manual worker in supplying sand for construction but soon became the owner of the sand business itself. With this business that extracted and sold sand legally, Khadka successfully made around Rs 100,000 a month.

Bishwa Khadka's story is one of the examples that shows, putting the same of level energy and hard work in home land instead of foreign soil has equal or more possibility of bringing good incomes.

Know Before You Go - the latest Government Decisions

- Mid July 2018 – final deadline for beneficiaries to receive the grant ([Link](#))
- Criterias regarding buying a livable land for Earthquake victims ([Link](#))
- The monetary cost for employment immigrants ([Link](#))
- The things to keep in mind for immigrant workers ([Link](#))

The sources of information, rumours and issues presented here are collected from CFAs, community meetings, development agencies and face-to-face discussions in communities with over 537 people in 4 districts between 1st – 31st July 2017. The issues highlighted are chosen on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Citizen Helpdesks Bulletin is brought to you by **Accountability Lab** in collaboration with **Local Interventions Group**.

