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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECEIVED
RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII

JUN 17 2021

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM
DM-OUCI-2021-220

18 JUN 2021 THE DIRECTOR IV
Date and Time Received 12:50 Signature [Signature]
Date and Time Released 1:41 Signature [Signature]

FOR : **MINISTER, BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, BARMM REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

FROM : **DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO**
Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT : **NEW EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP) REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AS PROVIDED UNDER EVP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021**

DATE : **16 JUNE 2021**

THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP)

Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) refers to the international exchange program administered by the United States to implement the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, 22 USC 2451, et seq. (1988).

The establishment and development of the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) may extend as far back as January 1948, when the United States Congress passed the Information and Education Exchange Act, also known as the Smith-Mundt Act. The law was intended "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the peoples of other countries" through:

- An information service to disseminate abroad information about the United States, its people, and its policies;
- An educational exchange service to cooperate with other nations in the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills; the rendering of technical and other services; and the interchange of developments in the field of education, arts, and sciences. (<https://www.evpcommittee.ph/about-us/what-is-evp>)

The Philippines is a participant to the EVP, whose aim is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States (US) and the peoples of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange.

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EVP COMMITTEE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021

Last April 2021, the EVP Philippine Committee agreed to lift the moratorium it imposed last 2020 during the onset of the COVID-19, through the approval of Resolution No. 01-2021 entitled **"LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF FILIPINO NATIONALS IN THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"**. Said resolution took effect last May 2021 after due compliance with its publication in the Official Gazette.

Among the added provision on the protection of participants was **Item 3 (e)** which states:

"For participants under the Teacher category, specifically public-school teachers, submission of clearance from the Department of Education (DepEd)."

The format process was presented to and approved by the eleven (11) member agencies, including the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) which acts as the EVP Secretariat. In order to have the clearance endorsed by the Central Office, the following procedures must be duly complied with by the applicant teacher, to wit:

1. The teacher applicant will file for the clearance from the school where he or she teaches;
2. When the clearance is already secured at the school level, the clearance will be endorsed to the Division Office;
3. Once the Division Office finds the clearance to be in order and free from irregularities, the clearance will then be endorsed to the Regional Office where the latter will validate the clearance before endorsing the same to the Central Office;
4. The clearance in the Region will finally be forwarded to the Central Office through the International Cooperation Office, and subsequently endorsed by the Office of the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction to the CFO.

CLEAR STATEMENT OF REQUEST

It is therefore in this regard that we request the Division as well as the Regional Offices to issue a Clearance Certificate to qualified teacher applicants in the EVP based on the following guidelines, namely:

1. Issuance of the Clearance must originate from the school level up to the regional level before it is forwarded to the Central Office through ICO, ***following the hierarchy of offices in administrative processes***;
2. Clearance must be based on the absence of any existing liability of the teacher from any accountability in the form of issued equipment, existing loans, pending administrative cases ***and other analogous circumstances*** consistent with the intent of the provision;
3. Even if the teachers have already resigned, the region shall still issue the requested clearance (based on the above), for the sole purpose of its submission to the EVP as a requirement thereto;

4. Signatories of the documents are the following:

- For the School - School Principal;
- For the Division – Schools Division Superintendent; and
- For the Region – Regional Director.

However, in the absence of the School Principal, Schools Division Superintendent or Regional Director, a duly authorized representative of the aforementioned head of office may sign the clearance in their behalf.

Only the School Principal, Schools Division Superintendent, and the Regional Director may designate and authorize a representative to sign the clearance in their behalf. Unauthorized individuals who will intentionally deviate from this procedure shall be held administratively liable.

5. Transmittal to the Central Office of the clearance issued by the region shall be done through electronic mail to expedite the process; and
6. Regional Offices shall forward the regional clearance to ICO through its email address is: ico@deped.gov.ph

Should your Office have further questions and/or concerns regarding this matter, you may get in touch with the International Cooperation Office through ico@deped.gov.ph or 637-6463.

Thank you.

Attachment:

- *EVP Committee of the Philippines Resolution No. 01-2021*

*ICO/FCO
DM-OUCI-2021-220*