

**Immediate**

**Government of Pakistan**  
**Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment**  
Emigration Tower, 10 Mauve Area, G-8/1, Islamabad  
Tel: 051-9107264

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No. BE-Ops(Pcy)68/2018

Islamabad, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Subject: - **COST OF MIGRATION FROM PAKISTAN.**

I am directed to refer to the above subject and state that the Bureau is continuously receiving complaints of overcharging by OEPs through Pakistan Citizen's Portal of Prime Minister Office which necessitates remedial measures for capping these expenditures so that the cost effect may only be diverted to intending emigrants after a thorough scrutiny of expenditure at different stages of the recruitment process. The service charges for the OEPs (under Rule 15 of Emigration Rules 1979) are @ Rs. 6,000/- which are definitely very low. Provincial revenue authorities are also imposing tax on this amount. A proposal for enhancing the service charges is also under process. The OEPs also bear miscellaneous expenditures on foreign delegations (including their air-tickets, boarding/ lodging/ entertainment), foreign visits of the OEPs for export of manpower, payment of commissions to the middlemen, and purchase of visa in the host country. These expenditures incurred by the OEPs are ultimately recovered from the intending emigrants. As per Emigration Rules 1979 (Rule 15A), an Overseas Employment Promoter is entitled to receive from the emigrant the following expenditures as per actual basis:-

- a) Air-ticketing,
- b) Medical,
- c) Work permit,
- d) Levy (if applicable),
- e) Visa Expenditures,
- f) Documentation Expenditure,
- g) Protector Fees and Service Charges.

2. The Bureau desires to regulate the emigration cost under the following basic guiding principles:-

- a) The actual minimum recruitment cost must be paid to the OEPs with service charges.
- b) The service charges should not be expended against any external recruitment related expenditure.
- c) The miscellaneous expenditures on recruitment should be reasonable amount and should also be fixed for such expenses.

d) Purchase of visas in the host country and role of middlemen should be eliminated.

3. In addition to other steps, a data of eligible trained workers is being prepared by Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) which will be shared with the OEPs to reduce their dependence on the middlemen. Gradually, steps have also been initiated to reduce and discourage the purchase of visas without adversely affecting the export of manpower from Pakistan and bring bad name to the country.

4. In view of the above, the Director General, after careful examination of the matter and discussions with different stakeholders, has directed all Protectorates of Emigrants to ensure that the following provisional measures are taken to lower the cost of recruitment w.e.f. 01-02-2020 and the progress/ effects of the same will be reviewed after 30-04-2020:-

- a) The expenditures mentioned in para-1 (a) to (g) are charged from the emigrant only on the basis of actual payments without any profit/ commission.
- b) Any justified payment made by the OEPs in compliance of the policy/procedure/rules of host country, will also be charged from the emigrant on actual basis.
- c) Protectors of Emigrants must keep themselves updated on visa/ government fees in the host countries through official websites, inter-action with OEPs, queries from Pakistani Missions abroad through the Bureau, or any other reliable source available to them.
- d) The OEP will provide an undertaking at the time of grant of permission about total cost of the recruitment.
- e) The maximum limit of total recruitment cost (including air-ticket), subject to the above mentioned instructions, is being fixed @ 4 (four) salaries (excluding food allowance and overtime) as per demand letter **in case of only the security guards for UAE.**
- f) For all other categories/ trades, the maximum limit of total recruitment cost (including air-ticket), subject to the above mentioned instructions, is being fixed @ **Rs. 300,000/-.**
- g) The permission within the prescribed limit and under the conditions mentioned above will be granted by the Protector of Emigrants. However, the permissions exceeding the prescribed limits will be referred to the Bureau for approval of the Director General with full justification along-with supporting documents/ recommendations of the Protector of Emigrants. Decision on such permissions will be taken on merit and case to case basis keeping in view the public interest. Trade tests at the trade test centres for recruitment of security guard should not be allowed.
- h) There will be complete ban on registration of security guards on Direct Employment for UAE w.e.f. implementation of this policy because the security companies in UAE do not make any recruitment directly and to avoid the expected intrusion of sub agents in case of refusal of an OEP to purchase visa from a company.



i) The foreign employers found in trading and profiting from the visa business will be blacklisted for any future employment from Pakistan.

j) These instructions will be applicable on permissions granted w.e.f. 01-02-2020.

5. The Protector of Emigrants are directed to monitor the implementation of these instructions in letter and spirit. The advertisements issued by the OEPs through newspapers and social media in violation of the same must be reported to the Bureau. Reports of the OEPs involved in charging more than the prescribed limit of expenditures should also be sent to the Bureau for action under the Emigration Ordinance 1979.

6. This issues with the approval of the Director General.



**(Safdar Mehmood)**  
Deputy Director (Operations)

**Protectors of Emigrants,**

Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Karachi, Peshawar, Malakand, Quetta

Copy to:

- 1) Director to Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Employment and Human Resource Development, Islamabad.
- 2) SPS to Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Islamabad.
- 3) Deputy Secretary (Complaints), Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Islamabad.
- 4) Chairman, Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA), Islamabad with the request to circulate this letter to OEPs and cooperate with Protectors of Emigrants especially by communicating country to country actual cost of recruitment.
- 5) Deputy Director (IT), Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment with the request to place this letter on the website of the Bureau for information of general public and OEPs. Preparations may also be made for incorporation of the above mentioned changes in the process in the MIS also.
- 6) Mr. Nadeem Akhtar Chandio, Deputy Director (Operation), BE&OE, Islamabad for social media message.
- 7) CWA Dubai-I, Dubai-II, and Abu Dhabi with the request to send a report on any illegal activity of the security companies operating in UAE which are owned by Pakistani Citizens.



**(Safdar Mehmood)**  
Deputy Director (Operations)