

PRESS RELEASE

ANOTHER 41 OFWs FROM SYRIA GOES HOME TO THE PHILIPPINES VIA LEBANON



PHOTOS:

FIRST ROW LEFT – Vice Consul Dennis John Briones (center, wearing jacket), ATN officer Dexter Macaraeg (in green shirt), Mrs. Melissa Mancenido, Embassy consular staff (in red jacket) and Damascus PE staff, Ms. Teresa Collado (also in red jacket beside Mrs. Mancenido) pose with repatriates in front of the CLMC shelter; **FIRST ROW RIGHT** – at the CLMC shelter, the repatriates prepare to leave for the airport; **SECOND ROW LEFT** – Vice Consul Briones assists the repatriates at the boarding gate of the Rafik Hariri International Airport; **SECOND ROW RIGHT** – ATN officer Macaraeg distributes the passport and travel documents of the 41 OFWs before approaching the Etihad check in counter.

09 September 2013 – The Philippine Embassy in Lebanon successfully facilitated the departure of 41 OFWs who stayed at the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) for four days while awaiting their flight to the Philippines. The OFWs were from the batch of 92 OFWs who were evacuated from Syria to Lebanon on Thursday, 05 September 2013.

At 1030H in the morning of Monday, 09 September 2013, the repatriates thanked and said their goodbyes to Shelter Team members, Consular staff Melissa Mancenido and Damascus PE staff Ms. Teresa Collado. Vice Consul Dennis John Briones, assisted by ATN Officer Macaraeg escorted the repatriates to the Rafik Hariri International Airport and assisted the group in undergoing airline, immigration and boarding formalities at the Rafik Hariri International Airport.

The 41 OFWs left the Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut at 1555H via Etihad Airways flight EY 538 and are scheduled to arrive in Manila on 10 September 2013, at 1520H, on board Etihad Airways flight EY 424.

With the departure of the 41 OFWs, the Embassy has repatriated a total of **1,719** Filipinos from Syria via the Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut since the first cross-border operations undertaken by the Philippine Embassies in Syria and Lebanon in December 2012.

Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz once again conveyed the deepest appreciation of the Philippine Government to the Lebanese General Security and to the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) officials, Engr. Kamal Sioufi and Ms. Najla Chahda, for assisting the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon in safely repatriating the Filipinos from Syria to the Philippines. **END**