

ADVISORY

DFA REITERATES WARNING ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Department of Foreign Affairs reiterated its warning for Filipino travelers not to allow themselves to be recruited by drug syndicates in carrying out their drug-trafficking operations. The warning was issued after the Department noticed that a few Filipino travelers have been arrested by foreign law enforcement authorities after detecting their possession of illegal drugs, the recent of which took place in Ningbo, China involving a Filipino found carrying 5 kilos of crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice." He was arrested at the airport while waiting for his flight to depart from Ningbo enroute to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The latest *modus operandi* of drug syndicates is to recruit travelers who would transport the illegal drugs out of China. The Filipino recruits travel to Guangzhou from Manila where they are given packages containing the illegal substance by African members of the drug syndicates. They are then asked to travel to Ningbo or Shenzhen where they are to take a flight travelling to Kuala Lumpur. In at least 2 instances, minors were asked to accompany the Filipino recruits during their travel.

The Department warns the Filipino travelling public that China has harsh penalties for persons convicted of transporting illegal drugs. Filipinos who are residing, working, or vacationing in China are advised to be cautious in accepting packages intended to be delivered back to the Philippines or to another transit destination like Malaysia.

The public is also advised to comply with pre-departure formalities being implemented by Philippine immigration authorities. These formalities are intended to ensure the safety of Filipino travelers and prevent the occurrence of illegal recruitment, people smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking cases. END

Pasay, 28 November 2014