

# DOTR VOWS TO ENSURE PH REMAINS TO BE LEADING SEAFARER PROVIDER

**MANILA** -- The Philippines will continue to improve the quality of maritime education to maintain its status as a leading provider of seafarers in the world, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said on Wednesday.

“The cooperation of CHED [Commission on Higher Education] and MARINA [Maritime Industry Authority] will continue. Nagawa yan sa Duterte administration so kailangan ituloy yun kaya nga merong mga kurso na three years ngayon na pino-formulate at tinatapos (This was done in the Duterte administration and must be continued so there are three year maritime courses that are being formulated

and finalized),” Tugade told reporters on the sidelines of MARINA’s 45th anniversary celebration held at its office in Port Area, Manila.

The Philippines still remains on the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) whitelist of countries that comply with the STCW Convention 1978 which sets the international standards for the certification, training and watchkeeping for seafarers.

Tugade also lauded the initiative of the Duterte administration which set the MARINA as the single maritime agency that will supervise the certification and training for seafarers through Executive Order

(EO) 63.

The EO mandates MARINA to evaluate and inspect all maritime higher education institutions in coordination with the CHED to ensure that maritime education programs comply with the international regulations.

Meanwhile, MARINA officer-in-charge Administrator Vice-Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr. stressed that the country should remain on the IMO whitelist to continue its deployment of seamen and other maritime labor worldwide.

“As part of our compliance with the Convention, we have to comply with the IMO independent evaluation. We have done that so far. We have to pass that audit,” Vingson said.

MARINA is also pushing for the passage of a legislative measure that will provide the enforcement of international standards on maritime safety, prevention of pollution from ships, load lines, tonnage measurements and regulations for preventing collisions at sea of which the Philippines is a State Party.

Data from the MARINA shows that the Philippines was able to deploy nearly 400,000 Filipino seafarers overseas worldwide in 2017.

Sea-based overseas Filipino workers remitted a total of USD5.87 billion for that year which was higher by 21.4 percent from USD4.84 billion in 2012. (PNA)

intending to cause disarray in our ranks. This individual is identified as a nuisance and we will get to the bottom of this,” he stressed.

Año noted the LGUs and the public can always access the DILG website, as well as official information hubs of attached agencies, to check the names and contact details of officials from the DILG, LGUs and national government agencies. (PR)

## LGUs warned vs. fake DILG assistant secretary

**MANILA** -- The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) warned local government officials against a bogus government official who has been identifying himself as an Assistant Secretary for his personal advantage.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año identified the poseur as Salvador Hussey Escarian II who was reported to have introduced himself as an Assistant Secretary of the agency or, in other instances, in Malacañang during government conferences and activities.

Año reiterates his warning to the public against unscrupulous people who masquerade as personnel out to discredit DILG to secure favors or perks from local government units (LGUs) in the Zamboanga Peninsula Region.

According to a report received by the Office of the DILG Secretary, Escarian has reportedly even managed to hold a conference in Zamboanga Sibugay and Zamboanga del Norte, having successfully gathered DILG officials of the region.

“Make no mistake, this Escarian is not in any way affiliated with the DILG or any of our attached agencies. Do not be victimized by his posturings,” he said in a statement.

The DILG chief said that

the fake Assistant Secretary supposedly uses fake documents to gain the trust and support of local government officials and national government agencies.

Based on a report submitted by the DILG regional and provincial offices, Escarian attended the launch of Mamamayan Ayaw sa Anomalya, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Iligal na Droga (MASA MASID) in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, and a meeting with Zamboanga Sibugay Governor Wilter Palma where he was introduced as Assistant Secretary from the Office of the President.

The provincial government of Zamboanga Sibugay also confirmed to the DILG that they provided vehicular support to Escarian for more or less one month upon his request when he was in the province.

Escarian allegedly also posed as an Assistant Secretary for Malacañang and managed to solicit an estimated P200,000 from the LGU of Payao for his expenditures.

In a separate incident, Escarian had also falsely identified himself as a rice importer and broker representing the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Año advises LGUs to immediately report to the Philippine National Police (PNP) any attempt by Escarian to estab-

lish contact with their designated offices.

He encouraged the LGUs officials as well the public to remain vigilant in spotting these impostors.

“I urge all local government officials to be more vigilant. Let us not be fooled by individuals

## CAAP still assessing computer glitch issue

**MANILA** -- The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is still assessing the computer glitch that happened to its Air Traffic Management Center (ATMC) system on Tuesday.

“There’s no result yet. Authorities want to go to the bottom of (this issue),” CAAP spokesperson Eric Apolonio told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Thursday.

The technical people and suppliers were called to explain to CAAP what happened, Apolonio added.

According to him, the said system was just inaugurated last year.

“We have to address the problem. We have a backup which is the old system. The old air traffic management service is manual, unlike this one which is computer generated,” he remarked.

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### Prayer for Healing

**JESUS**, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will. Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU!



*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.*

### 3 O’CLOCK PRAYER

“You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.”

“O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!”

“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (3x) Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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