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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.7
30 June 2020

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has sent the attached communication, dated 10 June 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

10 June 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020 - 45

Series of 2020

TO : All concerned Government Agencies, Flag States, Port State Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterer/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/Ship Masters of the Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, Shore-based Service Providers and Other Concerned Entities

SUBJECT : **EXTENSION OF PASSPORT VALIDITY**

Pursuant to the letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) – Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) dated 03 June 2020, please be guided on the following policies regarding the extension of validity of passports for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), including seafarers who are onboard ships trading internationally:

1. In view of current circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, DFA-OCA has put in place temporary measures to address the concerns of OFWs, including seafarers, by authorizing the extension of validity for expiring ePassports. Please note that the practice of passport validity extension has been discontinued as a matter of Department policy. This exception is made in light of the prevailing pandemic.
2. The Department has allowed applications for passport validity extension to be sent by mail or courier, or in the case of seafarers, by an authorized representative of the seafarer or the concerned shipping company/manning agency, without the need for the passport holder to physically present themselves at the Philippine Embassy or Consulate.

The Department is open to other options relating to the extension of passports, subject to acceptance by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and/or recognition by immigration or border authorities.

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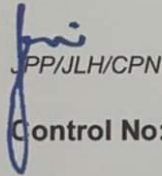
3. Shipping companies and manning agencies are to ensure that Filipino seafarers should already possess the 10-year valid ePassport prior to deployment to avoid inconvenience during crew changes. Please note that OFWs and seafarers are entitled to use the courtesy lane facility at DFA-OCA and any Consular Offices nationwide.

This advisory can be viewed and downloaded at the MARINA website at www.marina.gov.ph.

For the information of all concerned.



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator



JPP/JLH/CPN

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