



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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MARINA EASES QUEUE FOR ISSUANCE OF COPS

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Maximo Q Mejia Jr, PhD has tasked its Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Office (STCWO) Executive Director Alvin A. Tormon to immediately mobilize 120 personnel to assist seafarers applying for issuance of Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) for deployment overseas.

There are currently some 70,000 seafarer-applicants a month, applying for COPs, around 80 percent of whom are applying for renewals, reissuance or revalidation. A significant number of these seafarers would apply for two to three proficiency certificates on the average, thus, the nagging issue on queue at MARINA Central Office. "We are thankful to the DOTC Secretary, Honorable Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya and DBM Secretary, Honorable Florencio B. Abad for MARINA for the strong support to MARINA's reform programs, specifically in the implementation of RA 10635." Mejia said.

"The STCW Office adopted a two-shift scheme which commenced last September 03, 2014, and it proved effective as some 1,500 seafarer applicants were served on the first day.", Tormon expressed with satisfaction. "Last month, we have decentralized to MARINA regional offices in Iloilo, Cebu, Tacloban and Davao the issuance of Certificate of Proficiency (COP) under Regulations VI, to assist seafarers in those areas and ease the queue at central office." Tormon added.

STCWO Certification Division-OIC Arthur Miñon said that the first shift is from 5:30am up to 2pm, and the second shift is from 2 to 10 pm on Mondays to Fridays. "We fielded a total of 68 personnel in the morning shift last September 3, while we had 52 in the afternoon. Thanks, our clients (seafarer-applicants) looked contented", he said, adding, "We will continue this process, as this is effective, thanks to the MARINA Management, especially to Administrator Mejia for allowing us to hire personnel to address the queue problem.

MARINA has already surpassed its target of 300,000 COPs to be issued for 2014. To date more than 450,000 COPs have already been issued, according to Miñon.





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The Maritime Industry Authority is an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications tasked to accelerate the integrated development of the maritime industry in the country. It has been implementing reforms and programs to transform the country's domestic shipping industry to global competitiveness and the MARINA into a premiere maritime administration in Southeast Asia. For more information, visit marina.gov.ph.

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