

## **SHIPPING COMPANIES BASED IN UAE OPERATING IRANIAN VESSELS WITH FILIPINO SEAFARERS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED BY THE IRANIAN PORTS AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE IN IRANIAN PORTS**

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The Labor Attache in Dubai, UAE, reported that shipping companies based in UAE operating Iranian vessels with Filipino seafarers are no longer allowed by the Iranian Ports and Shipping Organization to operate in Iranian ports. This is on account of the inability of the Iranian authorities to endorse the certificates of Filipino seafarers in the absence of a bilateral agreement with the Philippines, pursuant to Regulation 1/10 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.

The agreement provides the facility for other parties to recognize the certificates of Filipino seafarers and serves as a guidepost for Port State Control Authorities in evaluating the validity of such certificates and documentary evidences.

While the Philippine government has initiated efforts to forge the needed bilateral agreement to address this concern, the Iranian government has yet to respond positively.

Iranian flag vessels with Filipino seafarers on board are reportedly meted with fines when these vessels dock at Iranian ports.

For your guidance.

Adopted: 03 Sept. 2007

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