

ADVISORY No. 34

Series of 2025

REITERATION ON THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO SEAFARERS

In furtherance to Advisory No. 33, Series of 2024, and in view of the increasing deportation and arrests of Filipino seafarers working onboard cruise ships in the United States due to alleged child pornography, sex-related offenses, and other alleged crimes, the Department reiterates its urgent appeal to all concerned manning agencies/principals/shipowners to uphold and prioritize the right to free legal representation of Filipino seafarers.

Manning agencies, principals, and shipowners are strongly advised to take prompt and proactive measures to curb such deportations/arrests through immediate and appropriate legal assistance port-side provided to any Filipino seafarer encountering legal, administrative, or port-related issues, especially in cases of deportation or detention at port.

Pursuant thereto, all manning agencies and principals/shipowners are hereby instructed to ensure that the accused seafarers are afforded immediate, free, and competent legal assistance and representation throughout the custodial investigation and deportation proceedings. They are likewise directed to submit to the Department of Migrant Workers a periodic report of compliance within thirty (30) days from the issuance of this Advisory.

For strict compliance.



HANS LEO J. CACDAC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Administrative Service
General Services Division

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