

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 187

Introduced by **SENATOR RAFFY T. TULFO**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES AND CONTINUED FAILURE BY THE PHILIPPINES SEAFARERS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) FOR SEAFARERS CONVENTION, AS REPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, following an inspection conducted in 2020, the European Union Commission notified the Philippines on December 10, 2021 that the country's Seafarers' education, training and certification system has failed to comply with International Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers Convention;¹

WHEREAS, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) specifically reported in its findings that there are deficiencies in the Philippine Maritime system and cited among others, inconsistencies in the monitoring of inspections, evaluation of schools, and concerning findings on simulators and on-board trainings;²

WHEREAS, the European Union demanded from the Philippines, the submission of a formal reply justifying and explaining the reported deficiencies found by the bloc in its seafarer training standards on or before March 10, 2022.³

WHEREAS, the aforementioned unfavorable report came despite the issuance of Executive Order No. 63 by then President Rodrigo Duterte, dated September 21, 2018, which aimed to "*further strengthen the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)*

¹ BusinessWorld, February 18, 2022, "EU tells Philippines to enhance efforts to comply with the SCTW Convention", available at: <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/02/18/430881/eu-tells-philippines-to-enhance-efforts-to-comply-with-stcw-convention/>, accessed on September 06, 2022.

² Rocamora, Joyce Ann, 17 February 2022, Philippine News Agency, "EU reiterates ultimatum on PH's seafarer training standards", available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168039>, accessed on September 06, 2022.

³ Ibid.

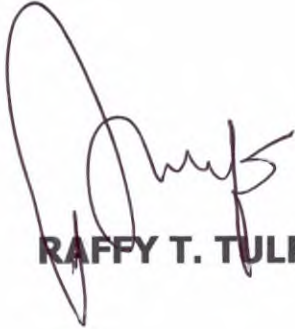
to ensure the country's full compliance with the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)."

WHEREAS, the Philippines has recently submitted its Reply to the Notice by the European Union Commission in accordance with the deadline;

WHEREAS, the result or assessment of the Philippines' reply shall greatly affect the fate of our seafarers deployed or to be deployed in European vessels and other member-states. In case of a negative assessment, the European Union may withdraw the recognition of Philippine-issued STCW certificates for masters and officers, leading to the eventual loss of jobs for hundreds of Filipino seafarers.⁴

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on these alleged deficiencies and non-compliance with International Maritime standards by our Philippine Seafarers Education and Training system in order to avoid the possibility of our seafarers being unrecognized or banned from employment in the European Union jurisdiction and even in other territories as well as to enact new measures or amendments to our existing seafarers education and training and maritime laws to address such issues of deficiencies.

Adopted,



RAFFY T. TULFO

⁴ Rocamora, Joyce Ann, 17 February 2022, Philippine News Agency, "EU reiterates ultimatum on PH's seafarer training standards", available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168039>, accessed on September 06, 2022.