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NEWS RELEASE

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### **DOLE CALLS FOR SUMMIT TO ADDRESS PIRACY-RELATED ISSUES**

Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito D. Roque announced today the holding of a "Summit on Interventions to Address Piracy-Related Issues: A Tripartite Approach" this Friday, 8 January 2010 at the AMOSUP Seamen's Center in Intramuros, Manila.

Piracy puts at risk ocean-going vessels with Filipino crew on-board and amid instances of hostage-taking of several Filipino seafarers, particularly by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, a concerted and pro-active preparedness agenda, involving all stakeholders, that focuses on the protection of seafarers is necessary.

The tripartite consultation shall tackle regulation and compliance monitoring on anti-piracy training program, education and training of seafarers on anti-piracy and psycho-socio counseling and other support services for seafarers and their families, and related interventions.

Invited to attend are leaders and representatives of various government agencies, manning and shipping industries and workers/seafarers unions in the country, including the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization.

The POEA has deployed 297,467 seafarers as of November 2009, posting an increase of 22.5% compared to the same period of the previous year. ###