

## News Release

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# Pre-embarkation facility set for Pinoy seafarers

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has allayed concerns of Filipino seafarers on their pre-embarkation procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic with the establishment of an enhanced quarantine and testing facility in Manila.

The said facility launched by International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) and International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), in cooperation with the Associated Marine Officers and Seafarers' Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), aims to address the concerns of Filipino crews on their pre-embarkation quarantine protocols.

The facility has a hotel accommodation set-up that act as a one-stop-shop for swabbing and quarantine facilities for joining crew, as well as in the monitoring of their quarantine period.

The COVID-19 swab test will be done inside the respective quarantine room of the seafarer and the result will be provided within 24 hours.

The COVID-19 test and quarantine certificates of the seafarer will also be rendered tamper-proof using block chain technology for the verification of the receiving country.

Also, the transportation of the seafarers will be charged to their respective manning agency, as well as the overall costs of the amenities, which will be shouldered by IMTF-AMOSUP.

The above-mentioned practices are in pursuant to the interim guidelines of the POEA in the deployment of Filipino seafarers, particularly in ensuring their protection in their pre-embarkation process.

The POEA urges other partners in the manning and seafaring industry to emulate the said good practices to further ensure the protection and welfare of Filipino seafarers during their deployment. ###