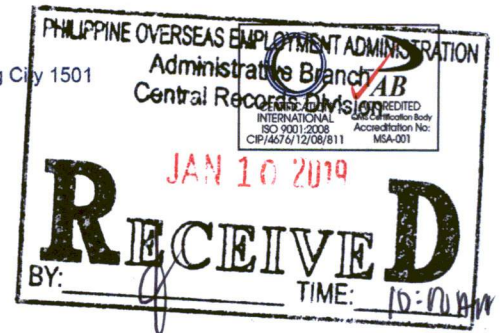




Philippine  
Overseas  
Employment  
Administration

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Series of 2019

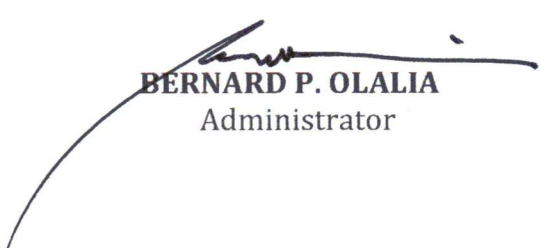
In view of the reported cases of Filipino seafarers being arrested by Taiwanese law enforcers for alleged involvement in telephone-card scams, all Filipino seafarers on board ocean going vessels berthing in Taiwan are hereby reminded to take extra careful when purchasing local sim card.

It came to the attention of this Administration that Filipino seafarers were arrested in Taichung and Mailiao, Taiwan on separate occasions and were brought to the Prosecutor's Office for formal questioning on suspicion of telephone-card cheating, sex offenses and other illegal activities using their Taiwan issued sim card. Fortunately for one of the seafarers, immigration/port authority stamps on his seaman's book showed that he was in the Philippines on the date that the crime was supposed to have taken place, while another seafarer was able to convince the Prosecutor of his innocence.

Apparently when they bought their sim cards, the seafarers were required to provide copies of their passport and seaman's book, as part of the regulation in Taiwan. The seafarers could only surmise that their sim cards and identity were used by the scammers after they provided the photo copies.

As such, this identity theft and criminal activities could be a modus operandi targeting Filipino seafarers in Taiwan. It was also reported that a Filipina businesswoman may also be involved in this modus.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

  
**BERNARD P. OLALIA**  
Administrator

07 January 2019