

# PRESS RELEASE

## Department of Foreign Affairs

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### DFA OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT NEW AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURE

27 March 2007 — Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Domingo Lucenario, Jr. announced that beginning Monday, 2 April 2007, the DFA Office of Consular Affairs (DFA-OCA) will no longer require certificates from the Malacañang Authentication Office as a prerequisite for authenticating documents issued by various government agencies.

“By virtue of Executive Order No. 582, issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on 4 December 2006, the DFA-OCA is mandated to be the sole agency responsible for authenticating documents for use abroad. The Executive Order effectively abolished the Malacañang Authentication Office, directing it to transfer all pertinent documents and facilities necessary for its authentication function to the DFA-OCA,” Assistant Secretary Lucenario said.

Following the issuance of the new directive, the DFA-OCA met with the various issuing government agencies to identify efficient mechanisms to ensure the integrity of documents submitted to the Department for authentication.

As a result of these consultation meetings, all documents for authentication issued by the agencies concerned will be transmitted directly to the DFA-OCA. These agencies are:

- 1) Air Transportation Office (ATO);
- 2) Bureau of Immigration (BI);
- 3) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);
- 4) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 5) Department of Education (DepEd);
- 6) Department of Health (DOH);
- 7) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- 8) Land Transportation Office (LTO);
- 9) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 10) Professional Regulations Commission (PRC);
- 11) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and
- 12) Regional Trial Courts (RTCs).

“Applicants for the authentication of documents from these agencies do not need to go to the DFA twice as they will only have to wait for the release of their documents after paying the authentication fee,” the Assistant Secretary explained.

“However, for documents issued by other agencies, particularly the National Statistics Office (NSO), applicants should bring the documents directly to the DFA-OCA for authentication,” he added.

Assistant Secretary Lucenario said that the streamlining of the authentication procedure is geared towards shortening the processing time of authenticating documents and reducing the expenses incurred by the public. “Before the new authentication process, applicants had to pay PhP80 for Malacañang Certification and another PhP100 for DFA authentication, or a total of PhP180. With the new system, they no longer have to pay for the Malacañang Certification.”  
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