

CONSULAR INFORMATION BULLETIN ON THE NEW AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Effective 02 April 2007, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Office of the Consular Affairs (OCA) began implementing the new authentication procedures for Philippine documents to be used abroad pursuant to Executive Order No. 582 dated 04 December 2006.

Under the said Executive Order, the Department of Foreign Affairs is mandated to be the agency **solely** responsible for the authentication of documents certified as authentic by the issuing agency office. Under the new guidelines, documents will be authenticated by DFA only after verification and confirmation that such documents are indeed authentic and were duly issued by the appropriate Philippine government and private agencies.

As to the DFA Authentication Certificate being issued under the revised authentication procedure, forms A and B will still be used. However, instead of the usual format in which the name of the "Malacanang" (Office of the Philippine President) authentication officer appears in the Authentication Certificate, the name of the signing officer is instead indicated as signatory to the accompanying document being authenticated, including his/her designation and the office which issued that document. The line "Office of the President, Malacanang, Manila" is crossed out with Xs and the Official Receipt number and date of payment are handwritten except the initials of the encoder for the DFA authentication certificate.

Berlin PE, 27 June 2007