



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΣΥΓΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΡΓΩΝ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΕΜΠΟΡΙΚΗΣ ΝΑΥΤΙΑΙΑΣ
ΛΕΜΕΣΟΣ

Circular 15/2003

TEN 1/5
TEN 1/10/1

31 October 2003

All Owners, Managers and
Representatives of Ships flying the Cyprus flag

Subject : Employment of Pakistani Seafarers on Cyprus Flag Ships

I wish to inform you that from 7-9 October 2003 delegations of the Ministry of Communications and Works of Cyprus and of the Ministry of Communications of Pakistan held negotiations in Islamabad, Pakistan, for the conclusion of a bilateral Agreement of Cooperation in Merchant Shipping between the two countries. The agreed text was initialed by the heads of the two delegations and the Agreement is expected to be signed and enter into force early in 2004.

One of the articles of the Agreement concerns the employment of qualified seafarers of the one country on the ships of the other. The relevant article, as agreed above, reads as follows:

Quote

Article 14

1. For the safe manning of vessels of the one Contracting Party with qualified personnel, shipowners of that Contracting Party may engage, in accordance with its relevant laws and regulations, qualified nationals of the other Contracting Party. The terms of employment of such nationals on these vessels shall be approved by the appropriate authorities of the seamen's country. In this regard both Contracting Parties shall exert their best efforts to ensure that these terms of employment are adhered to.
2. Any dispute arising out of the respective contract of employment between a shipowner of the one Contracting Party and a seaman of the other Contracting Party, shall be referred for settlement solely to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts or the appropriate authorities of either Contracting Party.

Unquote

Furthermore, the Pakistani Authorities brought to our attention the attached notification whereby a 25 percent rebate on port dues will be allowed to foreign flag ships which are manned by Pakistani crew to the extent of at least 80 percent. In addition, they confirmed that Pakistani seafarers are not allowed to claim wages after their engagement, other than those stated on their contract of employment.

As you have already been notified (Circular 26/2001 dated 19.12.2001) Pakistan is on the IMO white list of countries which give full and complete effect to the STCW, 78 Convention, as amended, and Cyprus recognizes the certificates of competency issued by Pakistan.

S. S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

CC: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Council
Union of Cypriot Shipowners
Cyprus Shipping Association (Sea Rovers) Ltd
Cyprus Bar Association

SSS/CHK

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GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(PORTS & SHIPPING WING)

Karachi, the 1st October, 2003.

NOTIFICATION

S.R.O. ----- (K). In continuation to this Wing's SRO No.1(KE)/2003, dated 7-1-2003, the Federal Government is pleased to direct that the concession in Port Charges granted to Pakistani Flag Vessels entering the Port of Karachi shall also be extended to such Foreign Flag Vessels which will be carrying at least 80% Pakistani compliment on board.


(IFFAT MALIK)
Section Officer (P-III)

The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
University Road,
Karachi.

Relief for foreign ships with 80pc local crew

DAWN

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Oct 6: The government has allowed 25 per cent rebate on port dues to foreign flag vessels carrying or manned by at least 80 per cent Pakistani crew.

The ministry of communications has notified the concession on October 1, 2003, stating that the concession in port charges granted to Pakistani flag vessels shall also be extended to such foreign flag vessels which will be carrying at least 80 per cent Pakistani crew.

This incentive fulfils a long-standing demand of Pakistani seafarers, that the government should take steps to increase employment prospects of Pakistani seafarers on foreign ships.

Shipping sources said that the incentives being given to foreign ships in port charges is likely to generate sizable employment for Pakistani seafarers in regular or feeder vessels calling to country's ports.

After 9/11 around 24000 Pakistani seafarers were reported to have lost their jobs around the world and ever since there had been a sort of undeclared 'embargo' imposed by foreign shipping companies on hiring the services of Pakistani seafarers.

According to shipping experts this incentive to foreign ships would mean that after every four calls to Pakistani ports the fifth call of a ship will be absolutely free of port dues and charges.

However, this will greatly benefit national exchequer as remittances from Pakistani crew members through official channels would pick up. It is estimated that on employment of additional 200 seafarers minimum of three million dollars per annum would start to flow into the country.

The Master Mariners Society of Pakistan (MMSP) considers this step as milestone in the history of Pakistani seafarers and acknowledged its appreciations that the Minister for Communication Ahmed Ali has lived up to his promise.

Meanwhile, efforts are afoot to lure private entrepreneurs in ship owning sector and a few of them have promised as well. The Director General Ports and Shipping have personally visited various trade bodies to attract investment in ship owning.