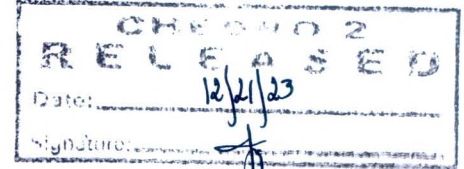




Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Region 02

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 377, Series 2023



FOR : ALL PRESIDENTS/HEADS/OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) IN REGION 02

SUBJECT : UPDATES ON THE ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE UNIFAST SERVER HOSTED BY DICT

DATE : December 20, 2023

The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office 02 hereby disseminates the information in the attached memorandum from **ATTY. RYAN L. ESTEVEZ**, OIC-Executive Director IV, UniFAST Secretariat, regarding the updates on the ongoing implementation of security measures for the UniFAST server hosted by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

As part of the ongoing commitment to enhancing data security, the installation of additional security measures has been requested to the DICT's National Government Data Center (DICT-NGDC) to further strengthen the overall security posture.

In this regard, the UniFAST website and Portal remain inaccessible until the configuration is finished. Should you have any immediate concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to ICT through ***icunit.unifast@ched.gov.ph***.

For your information.

ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO
OIC-Director IV

Encl: as stated

Kindly rate the delivery of our services through the link below:

Link: bit.ly/CHEDRO2CSM

Your response shall help us improve our systems and procedures so we can better serve you.
Thank you.

unifast/LMP/25619



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education



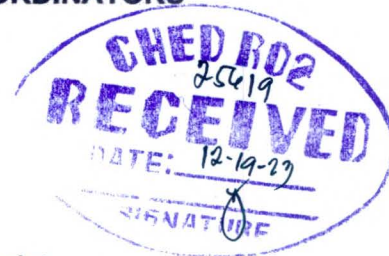
MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For : **UNIFAST SECRETARIAT, REGIONAL COORDINATORS
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

From : **ATTY. RYAN L. ESTEVEZ, DPA**
OIC, Executive Director IV, UniFAST Secretariat

Subject : **UPDATES ON THE ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY
MEASURES FOR THE UNIFAST SERVER HOSTED BY DICT**

Date : **December 14, 2023**



In light of the recent cyber-attacks and threats with other national government agencies, our primary concern is to ensure the safety and integrity of the sensitive data entrusted to us by our stakeholders. The UniFAST ICT took immediate and proactive actions to fortify our cybersecurity infrastructure, mitigate potential risks, and prevent compromise our clientele's data.

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing data security, we have formally requested the Department of Information and Communications Technology's National Government Data Center (DICT-NGDC) to install additional security measures. This additional layer of security will further strengthen our overall security posture.

On December 6, UniFAST ICT was notified via email of the DICT-NGDC's plans to enhance our cloud resources' security by adding a load balancer. This maintenance activity was conducted on December 7, resulting in some expected downtime as server addresses were altered to accommodate this crucial security upgrade. Following this implementation, ICT promptly initiated a request, signed on December 12, to update our Domain Name System (DNS) records through the DICT.gov.ph registrar. The goal was to ensure that our websites operate seamlessly with the new server addresses after the new security setup. While the configuration was confirmed successful by the evening of December 12, we encountered challenges accessing the website and portals via HTTPS due to the setup. Since then, the ICT has been in constant communication with the DICT-NGDC, collaborating on troubleshooting measures to identify and resolve the issue.

Currently, the information we have from DICT-NGDC solely pertains to the new setup. Our focus remains on resolving the HTTPS access issue post-implementation. Please note that the DICT-NGDC is presently engaged in their year-end assessment. As a result, the configuration may be longer than usual. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work diligently to rectify the HTTPS access problem.





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Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education



In this regard, the UniFAST Website and Portal remain inaccessible until the configurations are finished. We will keep you updated on any developments. Should you have any immediate concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to ICT through ictunit.unifast@ched.gov.ph.

Thank you for the ongoing support and cooperation during this period.

