



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE 2014-023

13 August 2014

Contact: Atty. Jabeth A. Dacanay
Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA)
Tel. No. 523.9078
Email: oadm13@gmail.com

MARINA ALERTS SHIPOWNERS, SEAFARERS VS “EBOLA” VIRUS SPREAD

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) advised all ship owners, bareboat charterers, ship operators, ship managers and manning agencies to be on the ‘alert’ on ‘Ebola’ cases in West Africa, based on reports of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In Flag State Administration Advisory No. 2014-01, MARINA Administrator Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia (Ph.D), the Ebola cases in West Africa are observed in countries such as Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, hence ‘all concerned’ are required to consider the following recommendations from International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and International Maritime Employers’ Committee (IMEC), and should be circulated to their ships as a matter of some urgency:

1. The Master should ensure that the crew is aware of the risks, how the virus can be spread and how to reduce the risk;
2. The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) requirements on ensuring that unauthorized personnel do not board the ship should be strictly enforced throughout the duration of the vessel being in the port;
3. The Master should give careful consideration to granting any shore leave whilst in impacted ports;
4. The shipowner/ operator should avoid making new changes in the ports of an affected country, and,
5. After departure, the crew should be aware of the symptoms and report any occurring symptoms immediately to the person in charge of medical care.

Mejia added that MARINA advises all concerned to refer to the following link of WHO at <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en> and to the website of ICS at www.ics-shipping.org, for further information on necessary precautions.

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The Maritime Industry Authority is an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications tasked to accelerate the integrated development of the maritime industry in the country. It has been implementing reforms and programs to transform the country's domestic shipping industry to global competitiveness and the MARINA into a premiere maritime administration in Southeast Asia. For more information, visit marina.gov.ph.

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