



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

April 2, 2012

MARINA INSPECTS SHIPS, HOLDS SHIPOWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFE SEA VOYAGE

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) yesterday forewarned ship operators to strictly comply with the safety standards and passenger safety with the anticipated influx of passengers taking the sea transport this Lenten season.

Marina Administrator Emerson Lorenzo said MARINA has implemented the random safety inspection of passenger ships while ship owners should be responsible of ensuring vessel maintenance and safe travel not only this Holy week but throughout the year.

“Random safety inspection of passenger ships were conducted in critical ports, including Batangas; Calapan, Mindoro; Roxas City ; Caticlan; Matnog; Cebu; Bohol; Maasin, Leyte,” he said.

“MARINA is serious in implementing the safety policy, as people’s lives are at stake,” he added.

MARINA has inspected if shipping lines have enough life saving device or equipment such as life jacket, life rings, firefighting equipment and other emergency devices in case any accident.

Shipping lines were likewise directed to implement the standardized cargo stowage and securing system, to prevent improper lashing that commonly result to vessel sinking. For added security, safety roll -on roll -off (RORO) ships, must disembark passengers off the bus while the voyage is enroute.

Lorenzo added that in cooperation with its sister agency, Philippine Coastguard (PCG) will be recording pre –voyage activities onboard, including cargo securing and cargo loading. Also, well trained K9 units will be deployed to inspect passenger luggage.

In the MARINA Advisory 2012-05, the Authority reiterates the responsibilities of shipping lines, especially with the onset of the passenger peak season this Lenten season, coupled with school semestral break.

“All domestic shipowners /operators are hereby reminded of their duties and responsibilities as public utility service providers to strictly comply with all safety and service standards, rules and regulations as provided for in Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Department order no. 2012-01 and MARINA Memorandum

Circulars,” the Flag advisory read.

“All shipowners are reminded to keep their vessels maintained, serviceable, and in order taking into consideration the convenience of passengers. Exercise extraordinary diligence as required, especially in matters of safety and security of passengers and cargo,” it added.

Shipping lines were also advised to secure special permit as early as possible to accommodate the influx of passengers and cargo.

Ship personnel and passengers were advised to contact MARINA through the hotline 0917-SUMBONG (7862664). Should passengers need assistance or have to air complaints , they can go to the mobile offices or help desks at the embarkation/ disembarkation sites.

Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas said the DOTC’s “Ligtas Byahe: Kwaresma” program ensures travelers’ convenience and safety this Lenten, as part of the government’s “Kayo and Boss’ advocacy.

o000o

Contact:

Atty. NICASIO A. CONTI
Deputy Administrator for Planning
Maritime Industry Authority
Mobile No. 0929.946.7526