



THE

MARINA NEWSLETTER

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NATIONWIDE MARINA VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR SEAFARERS — FULL STEAM AHEAD

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through the MARINA Regional Offices (MROs), ramped up its efforts in forwarding a nationwide vaccination program for seafarers. This momentous feat was made possible through a collaboration with different Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) and the tireless contributions of various officials and Local Government Units (LGUs) across the country.

AMOSUP HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATES FIRST BATCH OF SEAFARERS FOR VACCINATION PROGRAM



Seafarers are still required to wear complete PPEs like face masks and face shields at vaccination sites.

Mandaue City, Philippines – Last 02 August 2021, around 143 seafarers among the 200 listed have been inoculated with their first jabs of Moderna vaccines at the AMOSUP Hospital in Mandaue City, Cebu. This is the first batch of seafarers to receive their COVID-19 vaccines as part of the national vaccine roll-out for Filipino crew members.

The MARINA Regional Office VII (MRO 7), as one of the facilitators of this activity, will be taking the necessary measures to help ensure that all seafarers with confirmed appointments will be present during the proceeding schedules for vaccination. The staff at the site will also be implementing stricter social distancing guidelines and will no longer be taking walk-in seafarers, to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among participants.

INSIDE STORIES

[EMPEDRAD BESTOWED US LEGION OF MERIT](#)

[MARINA AWARDS SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEPUTY SPEAKER CONG. CAMILLE A. VILLAR](#)

[DOTR MARITIME SECTOR PROBES COVID-STRIKEN RORO VESSEL; MONITORS HEALTH PROTOCOL COMPLIANCES OF OTHER SHIPS](#)

[MARINA CONTINUOUSLY IMPLEMENTS EMPEDRAD'S 10-POINT AGENDA](#)

[MARINA STEADILY UPDATES MARITIME INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN \(MIDP\)](#)

[MARINA ENSURES READINESS DURING ECQ; RELEASES SEAFARER-RELATED GUIDELINES](#)

[MARINO PARTYLIST SECURES VACCINATION FOR 5,000 OFWS IN DAVAO CITY](#)

[MARINA CONDUCTS GAD EXECUTIVE BRIEFING](#)

[MRO NEWS](#)

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Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this Newsletter.

MRO 11 KICKSTARTS VACCINATION ACTIVITIES FOR SEAFARERS IN MINDANAO



The MRO 11 team, together with representatives from the DOH XI, AMOSUP Davao, and Marino Partylist, was responsible for the initial roll-out of 1,500 vaccine doses.

Davao City, Philippines – The MARINA Regional Office XI (MRO 11) spearheaded the roll-out of MODERNA vaccines for 1,500 seafarers. The vaccination program started on Tuesday, 03 August 2021, and will be held until Friday, 06 August 2021 at the AMOSUP Multipurpose Center in Davao City.

Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) submitted a list of seafarers, while prioritization depends on the dates of deployment of these seafarers and their availability for the 2nd dose of the vaccine, which will be administered 28 days after the 1st dose.

Present during the first day of the vaccination program were Dr. Annabelle Yumang - DOH XI Regional Director, Dr. Richard Pecson - Medical Director of AMOSUP Davao, and Mr. Remo Amatong - Mindanao Operations Head of the MARINO Partylist. Mr. Alvin Estrella and Engr. Rudy Escasinas of MARINA Davao was also present and facilitated the activity.

The MRO 11, in close tandem with the City Government of Davao City, AMOSUP Davao, DOH XI, and the MARINO Partylist, continue to lead vaccination efforts for seafarers in Mindanao.

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MRO 12 FACILITATES VACCINATION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO SEAFARERS IN GENSAN



The MRO 12 continues to gear up for more vaccine roll-outs for seafarers residing in Region 12.

General Santos City, Philippines – The MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO 12), in close coordination with the Local Government of General Santos City, initiated the vaccination of seafarers residing in Region 12. Sixteen (16) overseas Filipino seafarers were vaccinated earlier today, 05 August 2021, at the mega vaccination center in Robinsons Place, General Santos City.

The MRO 12 assures the public that it is continuously exerting its best efforts to help ensure that Filipino crew members acquire ample protection against COVID-19 before they board their assigned vessels. This is the MRO 12's active response to the call of the government to encourage the participation of all government agencies in the execution of the national vaccination program.

MRO 6 ROLLS OUT 4-DAY VACCINATION DRIVE FOR SEAFARERS

Iloilo City, Philippines – The MARINA Regional Office VI (MRO 6), in cooperation with the Department of Health Region VI, Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs), and AMOSUP-Seaman's Hospital Iloilo, rolled out the 4-day COVID-19 vaccination drive for seafarers at the AMOSUP Activity Center, in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. This vaccination drive officially started accepting appointments last 06 August 2021 and continued

until 07 August, 09 August, and 10 August 2021. Seafarers who availed of this program were inoculated with Moderna vaccines, to ensure that they are fully vaccinated prior to their deployment.

Medical Director of AMOSUP Iloilo Dr. Arnold Liwag, MRO 6 Regional Director Felisa Orongan, and the Vaccination Team of AMOSUP Iloilo welcomed seafarers who were present at the site during the first day of the vaccination activity.

In addition, last 06 August 2021, employees of the MRO 6 also received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to help ensure the unhampered delivery of frontline services to maritime stakeholders in the region.



AMOSUP Iloilo Medical Director Dr. Arnold Liwag and MRO 6 Regional Director Felisa Orongan pose with participating seafarers on the first day of the vaccination drive.



Seafarers who participated in the MRO 6 vaccination drive were given Moderna vaccines.



At the same vaccination site, MRO 6 employees also received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines.

MRO 4 FACILITATES VACCINE ROLL-OUT FOR SEAFARERS IN BATANGAS



Seafarer eagerly receives his first dose of the Moderna vaccine.
Batangas, Philippines – MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO4), through the assistance and support of MARINA Administrator VADM Robert Empedrad AFP (Ret) and STCWO Deputy Executive Director Capt Jeffrey Solon and in cooperation with Batangas Provincial Health Office, held the initial rolling out of Moderna vaccines for seafarers last 07 August 2021, at the Dream Zone, Provincial Capitol of Batangas.

Asserting the prioritization of Filipino seafarers in the nationwide vaccination program, MRO 6 Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio continues to closely coordinate with the concerned agencies for the continuous provision of vaccine doses for seafarers in the region.

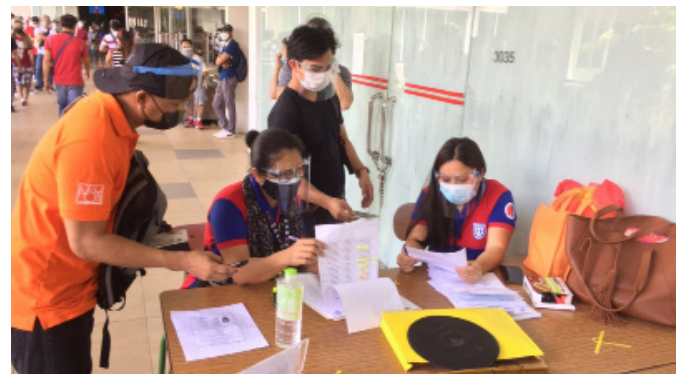
Moreover, seafarers who were vaccinated through this activity expressed their support for the joint collaboration of the MARINA together with concerned government agencies as this will help ensure their protection against COVID prior to their scheduled deployment.

MRO 10 PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR SEAFARERS PARTICIPATING IN VACCINATION PROGRAM

Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines – A total of 84 overseas seafarers were inoculated in Cagayan de Oro City last 06 August 2021. To date, a total of 164 seafarers in the

region have received their first dose of COVID vaccines. In support of the continuing effort of the government to vaccinate all seafarers in Region 10 and in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) Region 10, the MARINA Regional Office X (MRO 10) helped facilitate the pre-registration of seafarers at the DOH-designated vaccination area in Cagayan de Oro City. One of the requirements

Domestic seafarers, who are categorized as essential workers under Priority Group A4, are already accommodated in different vaccination centers in the city.



MRO 10 personnel facilitates the pre-registration of seafarers who are participating in vaccination drives in the city.

MRO 5 FACILITATES SECOND BATCH OF SEAFARERS FOR VACCINATION



Seafarers who received their first dose of Moderna vaccine pose at their designated vaccination site.

Legaspi City, Philippines – The MARINA Regional Office V (MRO 5) facilitated the second batch of seafarers' vaccination on 12 August 2021. The MRO 5 has been able to record a total of 135 seafarers who received their first dose of Moderna vaccines.

As per the National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) Advisory, seafarers categorized as A1.8 include those who will be deployed within 4 months. The vaccination activity is in line with the MRO 5's continued commitment to ensuring that seafarers in its area of responsibility acquire ample protection against the virus before they are deployed on ships.

EMPEDRAD BESTOWED US LEGION OF MERIT

MANILA – For his exemplary service and accomplishments as the 37th Flag Officer In Command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy (PN), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) has recently received the US Legion of Merit (Commander degree) which was bestowed upon him on 23 August 2021 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel by Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Christopher Aquilino of the United States Navy.

The Legion of Merit is a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. It is awarded to members of the U. S. military, as well as foreign military members and political figures, who have displayed outstanding performance of their achievements and services. It is also one of the highest military medals that is awarded to foreign officers.

"The pleasure is mine to have Admiral (Aquilino) come over to the Philippines to present me this award. It's truly an honor for me to have this partnership when I was the Flag Officer in Command," Vice Admiral Empedrad said.

The Philippines and the United States have worked together towards maritime and naval cooperation to ensure inter-operability of both the US and Philippine Navies. The strong US-Philippines relationship highlighted the modernization of the Philippine Navy and its global campaign on maritime security.



MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad receives his award, symbolizing the outstanding performance he has displayed in his services and achievements.



MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad receives his award, symbolizing the outstanding performance he has displayed in his services and achievements.

MARINA AWARDS SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEPUTY SPEAKER CONG. CAMILLE A. VILLAR

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), led by Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), gives Special Recognition of Support for the Vaccination of Filipino Seafarers to Senator Cynthia A. Villar and House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Cong. Camille A. Villar on Thursday, 26 August 2021, at The Tent, Las Piñas City.



MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad presents the Special Recognition award to House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Cong. Camille A. Villar.

continued on page 6

MARINA recognizes the Senator and Congresswoman's valuable contributions in the national vaccination program, particularly for allowing the use of The Tent as a vaccination site for Filipino seafarers. This will greatly help the Agency to provide a globally competent maritime workforce amidst the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We created the Technical Working Group on the Vaccination for Seafarers because we consider our 900,000 seafarers our modern heroes. Ang maitutulong namin sa kanila ay ang pag-prioritize ng pagbabakuna namin sa kanila. And we are very happy that you allowed us, Ma'am (Cong. Villar), to use The Tent of Las Piñas dahil ito ang isa sa mga pinakamagandang vaccination center at gustong gusto po ng seafarers rito," Administrator Empedrad to Cong. Villar, expressing the Agency's appreciation for their family's help in the vaccination efforts for the seafarers.

"Kami po 'yung taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa inyo, sa lahat ng sakripisyo niyo, hindi lang po para sa pamilya niyo kundi maging para sa bayan. Sabi nga ni Administrator earlier, words are not enough to thank you - that's exactly how we feel about all of our seafarers and all of the people who help them. Words are not enough to thank you," said Cong. Villar, who also represented Senator Cynthia Villar during the event.

Also present in the special recognition event were STCWO Deputy Executive Director Capt Jeffrey Solon, Association of Licensed Manning Agencies (ALMA) Maritime Group President Tina Garcia, and other officials and members of the Technical Working Group on the Vaccination for Seafarers.



The awarding was held at The Tent in Las Piñas City where several vaccination activities for seafarers have been recently held.

DOTR MARITIME SECTOR PROBES COVID-STRICKEN RORO VESSEL; MONITORS HEALTH PROTOCOL COMPLIANCES OF OTHER SHIPS

MANILA - Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Art Tugade has directed the DOTr Maritime Sector, consisting of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), to investigate the lapses that led to the incident surrounding COVID-stricken RoRo vessel MV Saint Anthony de Padua, which was previously plying the Caticlan-Batangas route.

Last 07 August 2021, it was discovered that 25 seafarers on board the vessel MV Saint Anthony de Padua have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This is in addition to the three (3) infected crew members who disembarked from the ship earlier last 01 August and 05 August 2021 at Port of Batangas, without securing a permit from the PPA. Although they have been hospitalized due to COVID-19, the vessel's shipping company only informed the PCG and PPA about the three (3) seafarers days after they left the ship. Currently, they remain confined but are in stable condition.



The vessel MV Saint Anthony de Padua continues to be monitored by personnel from the PCG.



The situation surrounding the infected crew members of MV Saint Anthony de Padua called for an inter-agency effort.

The preliminary investigation also suggested that MV Saint Anthony de Padua continued to transport passengers despite the indications of COVID-19 infections among its crew members on board the ship. Moreover, the 433 passengers on board the ship during 01 to 04 August may now have indirect or direct exposure to the disease. As part of standard protocol, these passengers are being subjected to a rigorous contact-tracing process.

The said incident led to the issuance of a Show Cause Order to the shipping company by the PPA Port Management Office (PMO) - Batangas on 11 August 2021.

Furthermore, citing MARINA Advisory No. 2020-86, which states that "it is the obligation of the shipowner and ship master to immediately inform the health authority and the MARINA at the next port of call about any suspected case of COVID-19," as well as the Ship Survey System (3S) Manual, Chapter II.5.2, promulgating Safety Certificate of a vessel shall be suspended if "a major deficiency relative to the safe operation of the ship is uncovered," and Chapter VII 2.5.1.d, providing that "non-compliance with the Minimum Safe Manning Level," the MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO 4) has issued a suspension order of the vessel's Passenger Safety Certificate until the PCG and Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) have issued their clearances.

Presently, a dedicated medical team has been hired by the shipping company to board the vessel and monitor the conditions of the 25 infected seafarers. Although most crew members have been reported to be

asymptomatic, nurses and marshals from the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) are also on stand-by if there is a sudden need to evacuate any of the seafarers onboard the vessel. Meanwhile, those seafarers who tested negative for COVID-19 also remain on board until they are given clearance by the BOQ.

The PPA will continue to monitor the port needs and operations of the said vessel, as well as ensure the centralized movements in the Batangas port. Meanwhile, the PCG will be in charge of the continuous 24/7 seaborne patrol to ensure the security within the perimeter where the vessel is currently anchored.

The country's maritime transport authorities call on the riding public to report shipping companies and non-compliant vessels that are found to be violating the established health protocols of the national government. This is to maintain the safety of both the sea riding public and vessel crew amid the pandemic.



Seaborne patrol is maintained within the vicinity of the ship to help ensure the security of the perimeter where the vessel is anchored.



MARINA CONTINUOUSLY IMPLEMENTS EMPEDRAD'S 10-POINT AGENDA

Pronounced during the 2020 MYPAPC virtually held last 20 July 2020, the MARINA continues to implement the issued 10 priority agenda of the Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), who assumed office on March 3, 2020 and has since kept the MARINA afloat amid the raging tide of CoVid-19 global pandemic.

As of August 2021, with the MARINA continuously committing to the agenda, good progress has been made:

Agenda No. 1: Strengthen the MARINA Organization
To satisfy the MARINA's mandate of responding to the increasing domestic and international demands of the maritime industry, the Agency proposed its Organizational Structure and Staffing Plan in accordance with the first agenda.

Consequently, the Organizational Structure and Staffing Plan underwent rigorous evaluation and was approved during the 264th meeting of the MARINA Board along with the Concept Paper on the Establishment and Operationalization of the MARINA Regional Offices (MROs) II, III, IV-B, and NCR.

Agenda 2: Capacitate personnel and enhance the

morale and welfare of the employees

Under this Agenda, one of the Agency's major feats include the issuance of the Administrative Order (AO) on the Enhanced Alternative Work Arrangement (AWA) under the New Normal, allowing MARINA employees to adopt a work schedule that lessens their risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, an AO on Enhanced Merits and Selection Plan was also approved.

Continued signing of agreements and training and career development opportunities are also lined up to be completed by the end of 2021.

Agenda 3: Compliance with standard health protocol
Following the 10-point agenda's goals, the MARINA Central Office (MCO) Service Units, together with the MROs, are asked to submit daily, weekly, and monthly reports to the Administrator and the Department of Transportation (DOTr). The Service Units and MROs also continue to implement alternative work arrangements (AWA), provide transportation for all employees working on site, and implement COVID-19 safety protocols.

Monthly monitoring of supplies for the prevention of
continued on page 9

COVID-19 amongst personnel is also conducted to help ensure the health of employees and stakeholders.

Agenda 4: Act with urgency in addressing EMSA findings

As MARINA continuously prepares for its mandatory audit under the IMO Member Audit Scheme (IMSAS), the STCWO has completed the Quality Procedure on the phase-out/ closure of MHEIs and AO on the Creation of MARINA Legal Defense Claims as part of its commitment to respond appropriately to the audit findings and observations by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) on the country's maritime education, training and certification system.

Also, the updating of the MISMO was completed to include the features of the total number of released MARINA ID, its verification and IOS viewing issue. The Quality Program Report (QPR) for certification based on the approved revised STCW circulars on the issuances & revalidation of COP & COC/COE under Chapters II, III, IV, V & VI was also submitted for approval of the STCWO Executive Director.

Agenda 5: Establish systems and processes to ensure eradication of graft and corruption

In accordance with the RA 3019, the anti-graft and corruption law, the Management, Financial and Administrative Service (MFAS), together with Legal Service (LS), will draft an AO on Governance Integrity and Anti-Corruption Program, which was recommended to be entitled: "The Administrative Order from Governance Integrity and Anti-Corruption to MARINA Values Policy" to be consistent with the CSC requirement. The draft was being finalized to gather comments from MARINA Offices.

The web-based SID/SRB Expedite Systems, where the seafarers can request for approval of expedite issuance of SID/SRB in order to eliminate processing through fixers, was completed and operational.

Agenda 6: Maximize digitalization to speed up processes

As we are limiting our face-to-face encounters, with the help of digital platforms, the MARINA continuously reaches out to its maritime stakeholders. Under this agenda, there were two (2) policies issued namely: Administrative Order on Document Uploading and

Verification System and on Remote survey of ships, shipyards. Also the MOA with payment centers, including banks and MOU with DBP, has been signed.

Agenda 7: Pursue with vigor the MIDP Priority Program

As for the implementation with vigor of the 10-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), the MARINA conducted a three-Day Updating Conference last June 2021. The said conference helped in the review and updating of the MIDP. As agreed and proposed during the Maritime Industry Symposium held in September 2020, the Agency strategically added an additional program aside from eight (8) priority programs, namely Program 9: Global Competitiveness of the Filipino Seafarers.

Moreover, there were 2 AOs presented during the MANCOM: the Reconstitution of MIDP Program Team composition, and Creation of MIDP Division under the Planning and Policy Service (PPS). The former was approved while the latter was disapproved but was later incorporated on the AO regarding the creation of the Strategic Management Service (SMS).

Agenda 8: Elevate Compliance with STCW Convention

In line with the Second Surveillance Audit of Bureau Veritas for ISO 9001:2015 Certification of STCWO, the major NC was already addressed, thus its renewal of ISO 9001-2015 compliance certificate was recommended. Also, numerous training standards were completed by the said office.

Agenda 9: Strengthen policies and procedures to ensure good governance

With this agenda, an AO was published on the Creation of MARINA Legislative Liaison Team (MLLT) to ensure the crafted and implemented policies will address the challenges of the maritime industry.

Agenda 10: Prepare for the IMSAS 2022

Under this agenda, the MARINA has accomplished the following: Strategy KPIs for contracting government performance; Strategy KPIs for flag state performance; and Strategy monitoring in line with its Guidelines to Execute the Provision of the just Approved Maritime Strategy and continuously organize Webinar on IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

MARINA STEADILY UPDATES MARITIME INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MIDP)

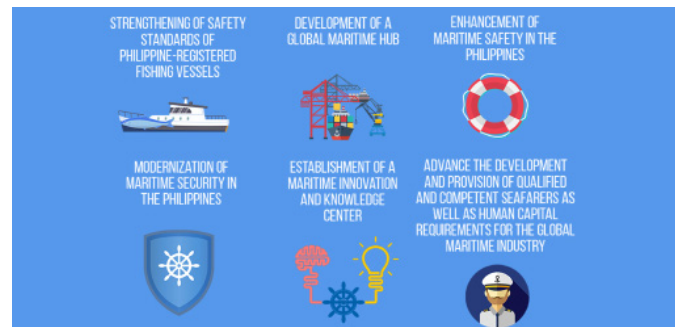
Contrary to last year's "Annual Updating Workshop" regarding the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), the aim to update the plan came early this year.

A three-day series of consultative meetings was spearheaded by RAdm Rey Dela Cruz AFP (Ret) for the MIDP during the second quarter of the year from 02-08 June 2021. RAdm Dela Cruz is a retired Philippine Navy planning expert who recently joined the Planning and Policy Service (PPS) unit of MARINA and was assigned to lead the MIDP implementation.

The consultative meetings were virtually conducted and participated by the program heads of each approved MIDP program. Aside from the objective to identify the progress of the MIDP programs, the consultative meetings also intended to discern particular issues and challenges encountered in the programs' implementation.

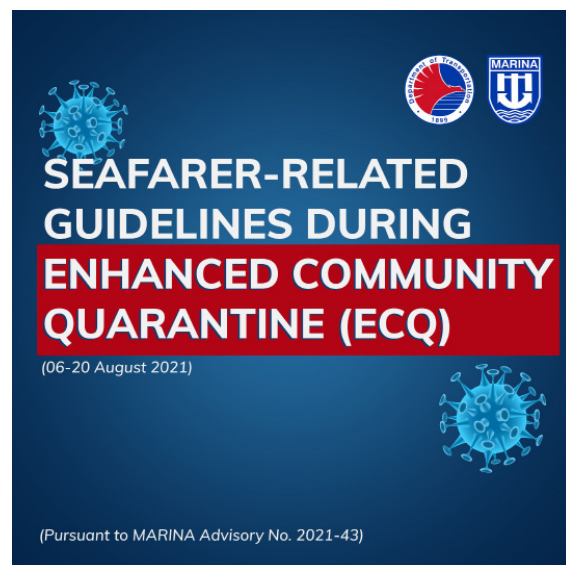
After the consultative meetings and under RAdm Dela Cruz' supervision, PPS was able to construct an MIDP Gantt Chart of Strategic Deliverables that may be utilized to further monitor the programs. Along with the programs' progress charts, PPS also came up with a set of recommendations envisioned to efficiently accelerate the MIDP implementation.

Currently, recommendations for the MIDP are being processed for approval of MARINA concerned bodies and the Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret). These recommendations include reconstitution of program membership teams, prioritization criteria, and budget alignment, among others.



Maritime Industry Development Plan

MARINA ENSURES READINESS DURING ECQ; RELEASES SEAFARER-RELATED GUIDELINES



MANILA - The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Advisory No. 2021-43, has ensured its readiness by releasing seafarer-related guidelines for Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in National Capital Region (NCR), as well as other areas nationwide, which started last 06 August until 20 August 2021.

Signed by MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad, the Agency laid out the said guidelines for the conduct of training, examinations and assessments, and issuances of STCW certificates, pursuant to the IATF Resolution No. 130-A, Series of 2021, issued on July 29, 2021, and the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines.

continued on page 11

Under the issuance of STCW certificates, only expedite applications for COC/COP of seafarers were processed at the MARINA Central Office during the ECQ. Only those seafarers who have confirmed appointments for expedite application with complete expedite requirements (including a verified flight ticket within two days from the date of application) were processed.

All other seafarers with confirmed COP/COC-related appointments from 06-20 August 2021 for the issuance, revalidation, or replacement of COP, COC within NCR and other similarly situated areas nationwide were rescheduled starting 23 August 2021 for the former and upon the lifting of ECQ in other areas nationwide for the latter. New schedules have since been posted on the MARINA website and official social media platforms once available.

On the other hand, under the conduct of training, all scheduled face-to-face classes and practical assessments of all Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) located in the NCR and other similarly situated areas, were suspended. Affected MTIs were advised to reschedule the affected classes/assessments to a later date. Upon lifting of the ECQ, MTIs were advised to implement their Post- ECQ Operation Plan before resuming their operations.

Aside from training, all scheduled Theoretical Examinations scheduled last 06 August 2021 at the MARINA Central Office were temporarily suspended, as well. All affected examinees scheduled from August 06-13, 2021, have been moved to August 02-05, 2021, and were notified through SMS/email.

MARINA clarified that for seafarers, who were scheduled from 16-31 August 2021, new schedules of Theoretical Examination have been provided by the Examination & Assessment Division (EAD) of the STCW Office to affected examinees through SMS/emails. However, online & Final Evaluations for Theoretical Examination still continued, as scheduled, since they can be done online with no personal appearance needed at the MARINA Central Office.

Meanwhile, on the conduct of assessments, the Assessment Centers (ACs) within the NCR and other similarly situated affected areas, were likewise suspended during the ECQ period. Same as the

Theoretical Examinations, online & Final Evaluations for Practical Assessment only pushed through online since personal appearance was also not needed.

Despite the 15 days of ECQ in some areas of the country, the MARINA continued to serve the public and maritime stakeholders.

MARINO PARTYLIST SECURES VACCINATION FOR 5,000 OFWS IN DAVAO CITY

Over 5,000 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are scheduled to receive their first jab of COVID-19 vaccines from 18 August to 02 September 2021, as part of the Marino Partylist's established OFW Vaccination Site for all departing, returning, and repatriated sea-based and land-based overseas workers residing in Davao City.

The Partylist heeded the call of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte to provide an express vaccination lane for OFWs to expedite their deployment. The remittance of OFWs is a key driver of the Philippine economy amid the global economic downturn brought by the COVID-19 outbreak.

"We value the contribution of our OFWs to the country. Now that they need our assistance, MARINO Partylist immediately assisted the city government by providing a vaccination site, medical health workers and personnel, and by leading the information drive of this program. We expect that this will help OFWs in processing their applications for deployment abroad," said Marino Partylist First Representative Sandro Gonzalez.

This initiative is in partnership with the Office of Mayor Sara Duterte, Department of Health (DOH), Public Employment Service Office of Davao (PESO), the MARINA Regional Office XI (MRO 11), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Office of Senator Bato Dela Rosa, together with other local officials and concerned government agencies.

Last 11 August 2021, the Marino Partylist and its partner agencies launched the online pre-registration for the vaccination program which is open to departing, returning, and repatriated OFWs in Davao City. All seafarers who completed the registration will be accommodated as long as they can provide valid documents required by the MARINA, POEA, and OWWA to verify their status.

"As to the vaccine brand, we negotiated with the city government and with Dr. Josephine Villafuerte, Head of the City Health Office, to prioritize us with the allocation of Western-approved vaccines such as Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen, and AstraZeneca. We also participated in a series of meetings with our partners to ensure a smooth-flowing vaccination for our OFWs," said Marino Partylist Second Representative Macnell Lusotan.

This vaccination activity will be carried out at the Matina Town Square and will run for 10 days, excluding holidays and weekends. Qualified registrants will receive a confirmation text from the MARINO Partylist regarding their schedules.

"We have been consistent in pushing for the inoculation of our sea-based and land-based OFWs. Davao City is only one of several areas we have supported and assisted nationwide. With the roll-out of vaccines for our seafarers, we look forward to the increase of their deployment by the end of the year," added Rep. Gonzalez.

MARINA CONDUCTS GAD EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through the Planning and Policy Service (PPS), conducted a Gender and Development (GAD) Executive Briefing last 08 July 2021.

During his opening remarks, MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) shared that GAD is a development perspective that recognizes the different roles, interests and needs of women and men. The purpose of this is to know how MARINA promotes gender equality where the employees can realize their full potential without being limited by discrimination, as well as how the Agency appropriates funds to ensure

GAD budget allocation to its programs, projects, and activities.

The members of the MARINA GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) was introduced by Atty. Patrick D. Ferraro, Chief of the Policy Development and Review Division (PDRD). Invited as a Resource Speaker is the Executive Director of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), Mr. Donald James D. Gawe. He discussed "Mainstreaming Gender and Development in Public Sectors" which aimed to review key concepts related to gender and development; to appreciate the link between gender and development; and to define gender mainstreaming as well as to explain the rationale and identify mechanisms on how a public sector organization mainstream GAD.

GAD is about being faithful to the principle stating that development is for all. Fairness and equity demands that everyone in society, whether male or female, has the right to the same opportunities to achieve a full and satisfying life. "GAD Mainstreaming is transforming gender-blind development into gender-responsive development," Executive Director Gawe shared.

In his closing remarks, Capt. Jeffrey P. Solon reiterates the unwavering support and commitment of MARINA to put gender equality at the heart of the maritime industry's plans and programs.

The aforementioned briefing was attended by the MARINA GAD Focal Point System (GFPS).



The Gender and Development (GAD) Executive Briefing and other GAD-related activities highlights the MARINA's commitment to making the Philippine maritime industry a place for women.

REGIONAL NEWS

MRO 10, MRO 1 & 2 EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FIRST DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINES



Aside from campaigning for vaccine roll-outs for seafarers, the MARINA has also been working towards the vaccination of employees and frontline personnel.

MANILA – For his exemplary service and accomplishments as the 37th Flag Officer In Command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy (PN), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) has recently received the US Legion of Merit (Commander degree) which was bestowed upon him on 23 August 2021 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel by Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Christopher Aquilino of the United States Navy.

The Legion of Merit is a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. It is awarded to members of the U. S. military, as well as foreign military members and political figures, who have displayed outstanding performance of their achievements and services. It is also one of the highest military medals that is awarded to foreign officers.

"The pleasure is mine to have Admiral (Aquilino) come over to the Philippines to present me this award. It's truly an honor for me to have this partnership when I was the Flag Officer in Command," Vice Admiral Empedrad said.

The Philippines and the United States have worked together towards maritime and naval cooperation to ensure inter-operability of both the US and Philippine Navies. The strong US-Philippines relationship highlighted the modernization of the Philippine Navy and its global campaign on maritime security.

MRO 4 EYES ESTABLISHMENT OF SBSR ACTIVITIES IN BATANGAS

The MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO 4), under the leadership of Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio, paid a courtesy call to Mayor Noel B. Luistro of the Municipality of Mabini earlier today, 02 August 2021.

During the meeting, Mayor Luistro and Regional Director Carpio discussed the MRO 4's intent of establishing Ship Building and Ship Repair (SBSR) entities in the region. This initiative is a response to the recent establishment of maritime services in line with the recent inauguration of Talaga Port in Mabini, Batangas.

Furthermore, the establishment of SBSR activities in the region is also an important component of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) to further expand local shipyards.

continued on page 14

After the meeting at the Municipal Hall of Mabini, the officials proceeded to Talaga Port to conduct an ocular... inspection which entailed the monitoring of the current port situation and vessel operations.

The MRO 4 assures its stakeholders that it continues to coordinate with concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) to broaden the scope of maritime services in the region.



MRO 4 Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio also participated in an ocular inspection of the new Talaga Port in Mabini, Batangas.

MRO 7 CONVENES WITH MUNICIPAL MAYOR OF CONSOLACION



The meeting between the two officials served as an avenue to discuss several upcoming projects including the Consolacion Reclamation Project and the MOU with the PRA.

MARINA Regional Office VII (MRO 7) Director Atty. Manuel C. Portus met with Municipal Mayor Joannes P. Alegado, MD of Consolacion, Cebu last 04 August 2021 at the Consolacion Government Center Executive Conference Room, Municipality of Consolacion.

The meeting was scheduled to brief MRO 7 on the status of the Consolacion Reclamation Project of La Consolacion Seafont Development and also the simultaneous groundbreaking event with the Cebu International Container Port in Liloan, Cebu, a line project of DOTr, in compliance with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) requirement.

They also shared that the Municipality of Consolacion had already entered into a Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) with the PRA, and is now waiting for the Area Status & Clearance, and Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The project will cover about 235 hectares -- 172 hectares of which will be an island-type reclamation affecting the foreshore areas of Brgy. Tayud, Consolacion where shipyards are presently situated.

MRO 11 PARTICIPATES IN ENTRANCE CONFERENCE WITH COMMISSION ON AUDIT REGION XI CLUSTER 7 AUDIT TEAM

The MARINA Regional Office XI (MRO 11), under the leadership of Director Mary Ann Armi Z. Arcilla, convened with the Commission on Audit Region XI Cluster 7 Audit Team for an Entrance Conference via Zoom on Monday, 09 August 2021. On the other hand, the Commission on Audit Region XI Cluster 7 Audit Team was headed by Ms. Soraya Vergara who led the discussions.

The Entrance Conference is an avenue for both offices to discuss the terms of audit engagement for the Calendar Year 2021. The conference is also held to ensure compliance with the International Standards of

Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI).

This conference is also one way for the MRO 11 to guarantee that its manpower and budget will be used to contribute to the continued development of the country's maritime sector.



MRO 11 employees participate in the virtual conference.

MARINA-NCR VISITS MARINA SATELLITE OFFICES IN THE METRO



The MARINA-NCR's visits to the satellite offices is one way for the Agency to monitor any issues and concerns that need to be addressed.

The MARINA Regional Office - National Capital Region (MARINA-NCR), headed by Regional Director Marc Pasua, visited the MARINA satellite offices at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and SM Manila last 26 August 2021. The officials met the Section Chiefs/Officers-in-Charge of the said satellite offices and their respective personnel and were given a tour of the MARINA offices in these 3 locations.

This meeting was an avenue for the satellite offices to raise specific concerns about the offices so that the relevant service units/concerned MARINA officials will be able to address the issues accordingly.

MRO 1 & 2 INITIATES COURTESY MEETING WITH PCG NORTH WESTERN LUZON

MARINA Regional Office 1 & 2 Regional Director Engr. Rizal J. Victoria convened with Commo Inocencio C Rosario Jr PCG, District Commander, PCG North Western Luzon during a courtesy visit on Wednesday, 11 August 2021.

Several issues were discussed during the meeting, including the compliance monitoring of vessels, incident and accident reporting, and investigation and vaccination of seafarers in the region.

The two officials agreed to support and cooperate with each other to effectively implement their functions within their area of responsibility.



Regional Director Engr. Rizal J. Victoria and Commo Inocencio C Rosario Jr PCG discuss pressing issues in the region that require the attention of the MARINA and PCG.

MRO 8 MEETS WITH TACLOBAN CITY MAYOR TO DISCUSS VACCINE ROLL-OUT FOR SEAFARERS IN THE REGION

The MARINA Regional Office VIII (MRO 8), led by OIC Regional Director Engr. Rodolfo Paner, Ms. Mildred Camino and Mr. Santiago Acera, met with Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez last 16 August 2021 at Tacloban City Hall.

Part of the agenda was the ongoing Vaccination Rollout for Seafarers (Overseas or Domestic). MRO 8 has sought the assistance of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tacloban for the said activity, in which the latter has affirmed and signified its support by even providing an exclusive venue for the seafarers.

The 2,000 Moderna vaccines for the activity, which will be transferred to the LGU by MARINA, thru Local Manning Agencies, will be distributed to Tacloban City and Ormoc City, all exclusive for our seafarers. Further discussion will transpire prior to the confirmed arrival of the vaccines.

Also discussed during the meeting was the intention of the Star Philippines Shipping Company to provide shipping services with route Cebu–Tacloban and vice versa. Mayor Romualdez and the MRO 8 officials are looking forward to the venture as it will offer more opportunities and convenience to the riding public of the Eastern Visayas.



In support of the MRO 8's vaccination initiatives for seafarers in the region, Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez has pledged to provide the venue where the vaccination drive will take place.

MRO 6 CONVENES INTER-AGENCY DIALOGUE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN WESTERN VISAYAS

Last 17 August 2021, the new MARINA Regional Office VI (MRO 6) Director Felisa N. Orongan paid a virtual visit to the District Commander of PCG-WV, Commodore Cornelio. Among the attendees were the Section Heads of MRO 6 and various station and sub-station commanders of the PCG-WV.

The inter-agency dialogue featured a sharing of issues and concerns in various Western Visayas stations such as, queuing at ports, mobile registrations, and the processing of documents and schedule of trips plying the Parola-Guimaras ports.

Thereafter, the body was joined by various Guimaras operators for a virtual discussion regarding the above-mentioned matters and issues.

Continued inter-agency dialogues with both public and private maritime stakeholders will help ensure the effective and progressive implementation of maritime rules and regulations for safer maritime transport.



Participants of the virtual meeting included District Commander of PCG-WV Commodore Cornelio, Section Heads of MRO 6, and various station and sub-station commanders of the PCG-WV.

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