



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

**Message**

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**MARINA Administrator**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Commencement Exercises of MOL Magsaysay Maritime  
Academy**  
**20 February 2024, 0900H**

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To Honorable Congressman Ron Salo, his Excellency Ambassador Koshikawa Kazuhiko, Ms. Doris Magsaysay Ho, Dr. Michael Morales, Mr. Takeshi Hashimoto, distinguished guests, esteemed faculty members, proud parents, and most importantly, the exceptional maritime graduates, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant and blessed morning.

It is with great honor and privilege to address this gathering of accomplished individuals. On behalf of MARINA and the entire maritime community, I extend my warmest congratulations to each and every one of you on this momentous occasion. I note with much appreciation that this is the first graduation ceremony of MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy and in the same vein, this is also the first graduation ceremony that I will attend as MARINA Administrator since I assumed the post two months ago. Congratulations and Thank You for establishing MMMA... Showcasing this institution removes any doubt on the quality of maritime education in the Philippines.

Today marks the fruition of your years of dedication, sacrifice, and unyielding resolve. It signifies the initiation of a new phase in your lives, as you step into the expansive and dynamic realm of the maritime industry. Armed with the essential knowledge, skills, and proficiency, you stand equipped to navigate the seas with assurance, and for that accomplishment, you should take great pride.

As graduates of maritime studies, you are professionals who wield a pivotal role in shaping the global economy and forging connections between nations across the oceans. Our industry serves as the backbone of international trade, facilitating the movement of goods and commodities that sustain economies worldwide. Your capabilities as seafarers are indispensable in ensuring the secure, efficient, and sustainable operation of vessels.

Beyond its economic significance, the maritime industry holds a deeper purpose. It encapsulates the essence of adventure, exploration, and cultural interchange. It nurtures ties among diverse cultures, fostering understanding and promoting peace. The maritime sector carries a rich heritage and a profound sense of responsibility to preserve the oceans and safeguard marine life for future generations. As contemporary maritime graduates, you carry the torch of this legacy, entrusted with the responsibility of upholding these values in your professional pursuits.

While the challenges ahead may be numerous, with additional training requirements and years of seagoing experience to accumulate, I have unwavering confidence in your ability to surmount them. The maritime industry is in constant evolution, propelled by technological advancements, environmental considerations, and shifting global dynamics. You are the vanguards of innovation, adaptability, and resilience. Embrace emerging technologies like digitalization and automation, utilizing them to elevate safety, efficiency, and sustainability in the maritime sector. Foster diversity and inclusivity, recognizing that a varied workforce cultivates creativity, collaboration, and global understanding.

On the part of the government, we at the MARINA are continuously improving our policies and systems in order to ensure the continued employment and welfare of our seafarers. When I assumed the post as MARINA Administrator, I laid down the 10-point agenda of the Agency which establishes the thrust of the agency under my leadership. Allow me to share with you today the priority programs of MARINA as you are all part of the maritime industry which we yearn to sustain and protect:

1. **Digitalization of MARINA's Frontline Services:** The move towards digitalizing MARINA's frontline services nationwide aims to enhance efficiency, accessibility, transparency and integrity in service delivery, keeping pace with technological advancements.
2. **Certification of MARINA's Core Processes under ISO 9001:2015:** This signifies a commitment to quality management and adherence to international standards, ensuring that MARINA's core processes meet the criteria for effective quality management.
3. **Enhancement of Maritime Safety:** Addressing the causes of maritime incidents reflects a focus on improving safety standards in the maritime industry, contributing to the protection of lives, vessels, and the marine environment, in particular, in the domestic shipping operations.
4. **Sustained compliance with the requirements of the STCW Convention:** Commitment to complying with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) demonstrates dedication to maintaining high standards in seafarer training and certification.

5. **Strengthening Organizational Structure and Institutional Capacity:** This point underscores the importance of organizational development, ensuring that MARINA has the structure and capacity to effectively carry out its responsibilities in regulating the maritime sector.
6. **Collaboration with the Philippine Coast Guard and other partner agencies:** Strong collaboration and partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard and other partner agencies, such as the Commission on Higher Education, (CHED), BFAR, DENR, DOST, DICT, and others, indicate a unified approach towards maritime security and safety, leveraging resources and expertise for comprehensive regulation.
7. **Engagement with Industry Stakeholders:** Regular fora, public consultations, and dialogues with industry stakeholders emphasize transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration, ensuring that regulatory decisions consider diverse perspectives and industry needs.
8. **Assessment of Policy Effectiveness:** The agenda acknowledges the need to regularly assess existing policies, repealing obsolete and outdated ones. This demonstrates a commitment to adaptive governance and continuous improvement.
9. **Effective Implementation of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP 2028):** This agenda emphasizes the importance of implementing the updated Maritime Industry Development Plan, indicating a commitment to strategic planning and development in the maritime sector.

10. **Preparation for IMO Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Addressing the 2023 International Maritime Organization Strategy on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships reflects a commitment to environmental sustainability in the maritime industry.

On a recent development, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order No. 55 last 08 February adopting the Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028, that includes as one of its Core Program the Promotion of Highly skilled and Competitive Filipino Maritime Workforce, with a target outcome of increased reservoir of qualified and competent maritime human resource who future-ready. This is a manifestation of this Administration's recognition on the importance of the maritime industry to nation building and the President's commitment to be hands-on in ensuring that welfare of Filipino seafarers are truly in his Agenda.

The Philippines through the Maritime Industry Authority, continues to make strong representation in the international regulating bodies, such as the International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organization, to ensure that the rights of seafarers are protected and their well being prioritized.

Dear graduates, as you commence your professional journeys, bear in mind that success extends beyond personal accomplishments; it is measured by the positive influence you wield on society and the global community. Aim to be guiding figures who inspire and uplift others, advocating for ethical conduct and nurturing a culture of safety and environmental responsibility. Keep in mind the enduring significance of continual learning and professional growth, as the maritime industry is in a constant state of evolution; necessitating ongoing development and enhancement.

Let me welcome you onboard, together with all maritime stakeholders, as you MARINA in ***“Charting a clean course and safely sailing together”*** in this voyage to a destination called ***“Bagong Pilipinas”***.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the substantial support and guidance provided by your families, friends, educators, and mentors who have been steadfast companions on this odyssey. They have served as your pillars of strength and unwavering wellsprings of encouragement. Take a moment to express gratitude and acknowledge their indispensable role in your achievements.

Once again, congratulations to the graduating class. I urge each one of you to persist in your careers as esteemed Filipino seafarers of choice.

Thank you and mabuhay ang MARINONG PILIPINO.