

**MARINA Administrator Sonia B Malaluan's Speech
during the Philippine Maritime Forum
06 February 2024
Waterfront Hotel, Davao City**

To the Honorable Secretary of Transport, Secretary Jaime Bautista, Sir, the Undersecretary for Maritime, Usec Elmer Francisco Sarmiento, Assistant Secretary, Atty Julius Yano, PCG Vice Admiral Rolando Punzalan Jr, Commodore Joel Abutal of PMMA, CPA GM Francisco Commendador, PPA Port Manager Ms. Analee Aguila, distinguished stakeholders of the maritime industry, fellow workers in government, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to all.

It is my distinct honor to take part in today's town hall meeting of the maritime sector, as part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Department of Transportation. CONGRATULATIONS to the men and women of DOTr. I am truly proud to be a member of very committed and dedicated department.

Today's presentation will be in 2 parts. First is the charter of MARINA, the Agency's milestones in 2023 and the priorities in 2024 while Part 2 will cover the Maritime Industry Development Plan as updated.

Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 474 series of 1974 otherwise known as the Maritime Industry Decree Act of 1974, the Maritime Industry Authority is mandated to accelerate the integrated development, promotion, supervision of the Philippine maritime industry.

As contemplated by then President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Sr, the MARINA is the government agency that is primarily responsible for ensuring the efficient inter-island connectivity of the various islands of the archipelago through our ships and the generation of employment opportunities for our people.

By its original charter, the MARINA plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country.

As such, it envisions to become a strong and dynamic maritime administration of the country in order that it will be able to ensure the safety and security of life and property at sea, protection of the marine environment and the global competitiveness of the Filipino maritime workforce.

Our Mission and Vision are supported by our more than a thousand staff complement nationwide who are expected to discharge their duties and responsibilities through observance of our core values of Professionalism, Integrity and Excellence.

This slide contains other executive and legislative issuances. They form part of the mandate of the MARINA, such as the following:

By virtue of Executive Order 546 of 1979, the MARINA was attached to the then Ministry of Transportation and Communication for policy and program coordination.

Executive Order No. 1011 of 1985 transferred the quasi-judicial functions relating to maritime transport from the then Board of Transportation (BOT) to the MARINA.

Executive Order No. 125/125-A in 1987 vested upon the MARINA the functions of vessel registration, vessel safety regulation, and issuance of the Seafarer Identification and Record Book (SIRB), the “Seaman’s Book”.

Republic Act No. 9295 of 2004 or “Domestic Shipping Development Act” provides for the Modernization of domestic shipping and shipbuilding sectors and deregulation of the Philippine domestic shipping industry.

Republic Act No. 10635 of 2014 established MARINA as the single maritime authority to give full and complete effect to the provisions of the 1978 International STCW Convention, as amended, through the transfer and assumptions of seafarer-related functions previously with the PRC, CHED, TESDA, DOH and NTC.

A relatively small organization, the MARINA has been able to accomplish significant feats in 2023. Some selected milestones, include the following:

1. Philippine election in the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with a 2-year term commencing 2024 and ending in December 2025. As one of the 40 Member States of the IMO Council, the Philippines participates in the formulation of global maritime policies and ensures the protection of the country's maritime interests particularly in seafaring
2. The Philippines has secured the favorable decision of the European Commission to continue recognizing the COCs of Filipino merchant marine officers on-board European Flagged ships. It means that we are able to save the employment of more than 50,000 merchant marine officers.
3. The Philippines has also completed its IMO Independent Evaluation which results will determine whether or not the Philippines will remain in the IMO White List or countries that have been found to have given full and complete effect to the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers 1978, as amended. By this, we are happy to announce that, on the basis of information received from reliable sources, the Philippines is in the IMO White List.
4. As part of our international commitment, Philippines likewise completed its audit under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme. Panel of maritime experts came to the Philippines to evaluate our compliance with IMO Mandatory instruments which we are a State Party.

The MARINA completed the Updating of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028. This will be broadly discussed in the succeeding slides.

In taking advantage of the benefits of technology and in our continued effort to promote ease of doing business the country especially for our seafarers, we have enhanced the features of the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online System. Seafarers do not need to come and queue in any of our Offices as they can apply within the comforts of their locations. Our automation and digitalization efforts will witness a break through this year after completing our ground works for the nationwide deployment of the MARINA Blockchain-Enabled Certification System.

In support of our strategic shifts to put in the center of our stakeholders in our work, we have achieved a 100 % Resolution Rate of complains that were lodged in the

Presidential Action Center.

The MARINA has developed its Policy Manual and Procedures through the grant from the Development Academy of the Philippines for the Agency's Certification under the ISO 9001:2025 standards for Quality Management System (IMO). By this year, we target to have our services in the Central Office and our Regional Office in Batangas ISO certified before the end of the year.

Moving on, the slides shows some infrastructure development in our Agency such as the Completion of the MARINA MRO VIII Office Building, on-Going Construction of MARINA MRO 10 Office Building, and the Ground Breaking of MARINA MRO 11 Office Building.

Some notable efforts that we have pursued in the area of promoting safety of navigation and the Protection of the Marine Environment include the 2023 Maritime Safety Summit, the concentrated Campaign on the Enhancement of ROPAX Fleet Safety Level, Launching of the Four (4) – Minute Video on Marine Plastic Litter and Regional Conference: Seizing Opportunities for Green Shipping in Asia and the Pacific.

To manage expectations given our limitations in terms of manpower and funds, I have outlined 10 priority areas in my leadership for calendar year 2024. This slide shows my 10-Point Agenda.

1. Digitalization of all MARINA processes
2. Certification of quality management systems of MARINA Service Units
3. Enhancement of maritime safety addressing causes of maritime accidents
4. Sustained compliance with the STCW Convention and Code
5. Strong collaboration and partnership with PCG and other partner Agencies
6. Engagement with industry stakeholders
7. Effective implementation of the MIDP 2028
8. Strengthening of the organizational structure and institutional capacity
9. Assessment of the effectiveness of existing policies and repeal of those found obsolete

10. Preparation for the Philippine compliance to the revised IMO GHG strategy

May I now invite your attention to the screen for our short video presentation on the MIDP

[MIDP Presentation]

Our succeeding slides contain key deliverables for the 8 Priority Programs of the Updated MIDP. They contain High Impact Projects and Legislative Agenda items.

For our Overseas Shipping Industry, the Updated MIDP will focus on the following as shown in the slide:

[Directs to the presentation]

First is a legislation to develop the Philippine ship registry. As projects we also plan to adopt a national guidance document for the effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement of laws, rules and regulations for Philippine registered overseas ships

For Core Program 3, the following were included:

1. Comprehensive Development of the Ship Building and Ship Repair (SBSR) Industry This legislation will further propel the SBSR Industry and retain, if not advance its rank as one of the top 5 shipbuilding nations in the world.
2. Ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, 2009.

Feasibility Studies on:

- a. Localization of shipbuilding materials;
- b. Establishment of maritime eco-industrial park (MIP);
- c. Promotion of ship recycling in the Philippines.
- d. Skills mapping for the SBSR workers

Core Program 4 or the Promotion of the Maritime Workforce

1. Development of Ladderized Maritime Education and Training, Bridging and

Reintegration Programs;

2. Development of education and training programs for electro technology, shipbuilding/ship repair industry, ship management, ship handling, and logistics, port management & operations, pilotage and other related programs;
3. Standardized training for welders, fitters and machinists, mold lofters, and fiberglass or other hull material construction for SBSR and onboard works;
4. Studies to support future-ready maritime workforce, such as autonomous surface ships and decarbonization;
5. Studies on Seafarers' mental health and well being; women as seafarers and women in maritime workforce;
6. Studies on maritime security challenges in West Philippine sea and other areas of conflict that may disrupt commercial shipping.

Overriding Program 1:

1. An Act Providing for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of International Maritime Instruments of which the Philippines is a State Party;
2. An Act Creating a Philippine Transport Safety Board, Prescribing its powers and functions, and appropriating funds thereof

Projects include:

1. Implementation of the concentrated safety campaign project
2. Modernization of Communication System and Aids to Navigation
3. Updating of Hydrographic Services in Navigational Sea Lanes

Overriding Program 2:

Development and implementation of a National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) on Marine Environment Protection which features Reduction of GHG emission from Ships; Marine Plastic Litter; Ballast water management; Biofouling Management and Reduction of Underwater Noise (Policies, technological solutions, R&D on zero/ near zero GHG emission fuels, training standards and programs)

Ratification and Implementation of International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 2010 (HNS Convention)

Enabling Program:

1. Full digitalization of all MARINA frontline services and support to operation processes;
2. Standardization and Digitalization of Audit/Survey/Inspection Checklist and Reports;
3. System Interface with local sources and users of MARINA data;
4. Integration of all other application systems being developed under the STMTA with DOST;
5. Maintenance of seafarers and shipping portals.

[Directs to presentation]

Moving Forward we will undertake the following:

1. Close Coordination with the Office of the President for...
 - Issuance of an appropriate Executive Order adopting the MIDP 2028
 - Approval of the Updated MIDP 2028
2. Partnership with Relevant Government Agencies for...
 - Development of Project Proposals to form part of their Tier 2 proposals to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
 - Forging of relevant Memoranda of Agreement Understanding, Cooperation for support for the Implementation of MIDP 2028 Projects
3. Strategic Communications for Stronger Narratives of the importance of the Maritime Industry in the National Development Agenda of the country

[Directs to presentation]

MARINA's CAMPAIGN - "CHARTING A CLEAN COURSE, SAFELY SAILING TOGETHER" will contribute to the transformative journey that we are aiming for the maritime industry.

"CHARTING A CLEAN COURSE" signifies MARINA's commitment to responsible leadership and sustainable development while **"SAFELY SAILING TOGETHER"**

introduces a narrative of inclusivity and equity and positive change towards becoming “Bagong Pilipinas.”

Thank you so much for your attention.

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