

ADMINISTRATOR SONIA B. MALALUAN

Guest of Honor/Inducting Officer

Filipino Shipowners Association (FSA) Induction of Officers

Diamond Hotel, Manila

31 January 2024 | 1200H

TO HIS Excellency AMBASSADOR CARLOS C. SALINAS, FSA CHAIRMAN
EMERITUS

MR. DARIO R. ALAMPAY, FSA CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

GERARDO A. BORROMEO, FSA VICE PRESIDENT

DISTINGUISHED FSA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LEADERS IN THE MARITIME COMMUNITY

FELLOW PUBLIC SERVANTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD DAY.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Filipino Shipowners Association for inviting me as a guest of honor and inducting officer for this momentous occasion. In the past decades, the FSA has been instrumental in pushing for national maritime policies that foster the development of the overseas shipping, maritime workforce, and global relations, among others. Truly, something that our forerunners in the maritime industry could be very proud of.

Today marks the beginning, or continuation to some of important job as FSA officers. I can remember just a month ago, when I was sworn to office by Secretary Bautista as the MARINA Administrator, I was anxious, nervous, pressured and overwhelmed. Being appointed to this position, let alone being a woman behind the helm in this male-dominated industry, without any political affiliation nor connection, requires courage and confidence. Right now, standing here in front of you, witnessing how far your organization has become just gives me both. COURAGE, because I know I am not alone in this endeavor; and CONFIDENCE, because I trust that the FSA will continue to support the maritime administration in its plan to promote the Philippine overseas shipping industry.

Around 90% of traded goods are carried over the waves, and the demand for seaborne trade is projected to steadily increase in the coming decades¹—hence, a huge job for you and me. We recognize that our unique ability to respond to the demand of international shipping underlines our advantage in a market challenged by abrupt technological changes, overwhelming opportunities, and innovations. Hence, as the global shipping takes its natural evolution, so must our maritime industry continue to re-invent itself and be attuned to the latest

¹ <https://www.ics-shipping.org/shipping-fact/shipping-and-world-trade-global-supply-and-demand-for-seafarers/>

developments affecting the maintenance of a safe, secure and profitable shipping environment.

During my meeting with President Marcos on 17 January 2024, he highlighted the standardization of operations and practices in the maritime industry and promotion of a highly skilled Filipino maritime workforce as priorities. He is now aware of the challenges in front of us, starting from the obsolete legislation on ship registration and ship mortgage. Hence, I humbly enjoin all of you to be one with us in operationalizing these goals. Among the priority areas of MARINA is engagement with industry stakeholders through regular fora, public consultations and dialogues, such as this one, where we can have an opportunity to discuss other strategies of the Administration. SAFETY/ SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT. DIGITALIZATION. GOOD GOVERNANCE—for easy recall, these are MARINA's version of SDG.

Being given the opportunity to serve as FSA officers, you have a very important role to play. May this induction activity serve not just a formality or any administrative compliance, but an impetus for achieving our SDGs, providing valuable inputs in our legislative agenda and other projects under the MIDP 2028. May you use your role as officers as an opportunity to impart your expertise, wisdom, and experience not only within your association but to the whole maritime community. Let this day be a hallmark of a renewed commitment to effectively do our jobs today, for a better, brighter, tomorrow.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to leave you with some Warren Buffet words to ponder, as you leave this hall today,

“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

Together, let us plant a tree for the maritime industry of the future.

Thank you and mabuhay!