

ADMINISTRATOR SONIA B. MALALUAN

OATH TAKING OF TPME CHAIR AND MEMBERS

16 FEBRUARY 2024

CHED, Quezon City

TO the Honorable Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education, Dr. J. Prospero De Vera III, Commissioner Ronald Adamat, CHED Executive Director Atty. Cinderella Filipina Benitez-Jaro, STCWO Executive Director Sam Batalla, distinguished members of the Technical Panel for Maritime Education, partners from the center for Educational Measurement Inc (CEM) Dr. Grace Aguilung Dalisay, Fellow public servants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.

First of, let me express my gratitude to Chairperson De Vera, ED Cindy, Director Cherrie and CHED Office of Programs and Standards Development for organizing and facilitating today's event. Our wholehearted appreciation to the TPME members in previous years. To the members of the TPME Congratulations and thank you for accepting the challenge, especially to the new ones.

MARINA welcomes and supports the Memorandum Agreement signed minutes ago between CHED and CEM.

Today marks the beginning, or continuation to some of the important tasks of providing expertise in compliance of Higher Education Institutions to the standards required under the STCW Manila Amendments. I gladly note a very good mix of representation composing the TPME. As the Technical arm of the Commission, it is our primary responsibility to provide technical assistance and inputs in the setting standards for institutions and programs, implementation and monitoring of compliance.

Maritime education is truly different from other fields or disciplines as it is governed by international or global standards. As TPME, we only have one goal and that is to ensure that the graduates of maritime higher education institutions are compliant to such standards. During my presentation to President Marcos and the Cabinet in October 2022, his directive was to ensure global competitiveness of the Filipino seafarers by developing and implementing standards that are above the minimum, making our job more difficult and challenging. Before doing so, I believe we still have some fixing to do to address issues such as on board training or OBT, ladderized programs, effective monitoring system and other issues.

As the global shipping evolves, labor markets are being challenged by abrupt technological changes such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, autonomous surfaced ships or unmanned vessels, digitalization, cybersecurity,

decarbonization, conflicts and war risks. We have to stay focused and let's aim at removing any doubt on the compliance of the Philippines to the STCW Convention and Code. It is sad that 14 years since the adoption of the 2010 Amendments, and more than 8 years after the amendments took effect, we are still struggling in few areas of its implementation.

May we all be instrumental in putting closure to any issue or doubt in the country's implementation, at the same time take more active role in crafting the revised standards under the comprehensive review that IMO has started, through stronger and unified partnership not only between CHED and MARINA but with all stakeholders, as we also encourage "a whole of nation approach".

Let us use our roles as an opportunity to impart our expertise, wisdom, and experience not only within TPME but to all players in maritime education, training certification system of the Philippines. Let this day be a hallmark of renewed commitment to effectively do our jobs today, for a better and brighter tomorrow of all Filipino seafarers.

We are now onboard charting a clean course and safely sailing together in this voyage of Commitment, triumph and transformation to our destination of Bagong Pilipinas.

Thank you and mabuhay!