



## MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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### MARINA REGION VIII OPENS SATELLITE OFFICES

In line with the government's program to effectively bring the services 'closer' to the people, and as part of its continuing support to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Tacloban City (Leyte) and other areas in Eastern Visayas destroyed by typhoon 'Yolanda', the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Regional Office (MRO) VIII has opened satellite offices in Maasin, Ormoc, Calbayog and Guiuan respectively.

In a report to Transportation and Communications Secretary Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, MARINA Administrator Dr. Maximo Q Mejia Jr. (PhD), said MRO VIII Officer-In-Charge Maristel E. Letigio led the undertaking and explained that the opening of satellite offices will address the immediate needs of clientele in far-flung areas, especially those affected by the predator typhoon. These include acceptance of "applications for registrations of vessels, applications for renewal of certificates, and other seafarers-related concerns aimed at effectively monitoring operations of vessels in our area of responsibility (AOR), and as an immediate response to any maritime incident/ accident"

Letigio has coordinated and negotiated with Gov. Roger G. Mercado of Southern Leyte; Mayor Edward C. Codilla of Ormoc City, and Mayor Reynaldo P. Aquino of Calbayog City, Samar for a 'rental-free" office, according to Mejia. The satellite office in Guiuan was expected to open before the year ends, said Letigio, who, likewise, negotiated for a "free" space at Robinsons' Place where information could be accessed, that includes documentary requirements.

Coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office VIII was in place as 'mobile registration and legalization program' (MRLP) and campaign have been intensified. As per BFAR data, there are some 15,000 new fishing vessels (of 3GT and below) intended for deployment for Western Visayas this year.

Due to serious financial constraints, however, only 139 fishing boats (3GT and below) have, so far, been registered or documented, under the MRLP, according to the

MARINA Regional Chief. She added that there were registrations last Oct. 7 to 9 in Calbayog City, while the next MRLP activity is slated this month in Catarman, Northern Samar.

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The Maritime Industry Authority is an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications tasked to accelerate the integrated development of the maritime industry in the country. It has been implementing reforms and programs to transform the country's domestic shipping industry to global competitiveness and the MARINA into a premiere maritime administration in Southeast Asia. For more information, visit [marina.gov.ph](http://marina.gov.ph).



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