MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2020-31
Series of 2020

TO: ALL DOMESTIC SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIP OWNERS/OPERATORS/CHARTERERS AND OTHER CONCERNED

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE HEARING OF CASES DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

In line with Proclamation No. 922 declaring the entire country under a state of public health emergency due to the outbreak of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) and pursuant to Section 10, par. 17, Rule III of Republic Act (RA) No. 9295 which empowers MARINA to issue such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of said law, and Section 4, Rule 1 of the MARINA Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure providing that MARINA may issue general or specific procedural directives at any time before or during any proceeding, and considering as well the continuous rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country and, consequently, the continuous health risks it poses to the citizenry, the following rules are hereby implemented:

1. All applications and petitions filed with or pending before the Franchising Service while the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) is in place and MARINA continues to operate on a work-from-home scheme, and/or all pending incidents of such applications or petitions shall be determined or resolved based on the pleadings and supporting documents submitted showing proof of compliance with the prescribed qualification, jurisdictional and documentary requirements, or substantiating the allegations in the pleadings.

2. Submission of pleadings for the above-mentioned cases shall be made through the official email address of FS at fs@marina.gov.ph. Only those received through this given email address shall be recognized as having been properly and timely filed. Pleadings sent or filed before the other offices/units of MARINA shall only be deemed filed as of the date of receipt by FS of the endorsement by such other offices/units to the FS email address.

3. The regular procedures for the processing of applications, petitions or determination/resolution of complaints under the MARINA Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure, including the conduct of hearings, shall again be adopted upon the resumption of the regular working operations of MARINA,
subject to the observance of safety protocols, or without prejudice to the adoption of measures or procedures to avoid or minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission between and among the parties and all others involved.

This MARINA Advisory shall take effect immediately and shall remain valid and subsisting until otherwise revoked/amended/modified or until further notice.

For information and guidance.

VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator