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MARINA ADVISORY

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TO All Concerned Government Agencies, Domestic and Overseas Shipping Companies, Manning Agencies, Flag States with Ships transiting Philippine waters, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Operators/Ship Managers/ Shipmasters and Seafarers onboard Philippine-Registered Ships, and Other Concerned Entities

SUBJECT OBSERVANCE OF STRICT VIGILANCE FOR THE CREW CHANGE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN PHILIPPINE WATERS, SPECIFICALLY IN MANILA BAY AND BATANGAS BAY

This is to inform all concerned on the 2020 IFC Spot Commentary 1/20 2020 dated 4 September 2020 on the issue of "Observations of Theft, Robbery, and Piracy at Sea (TRAPS) Incidents in Manila and Batangas Bay, Philippines. Based on the said document, IFC has observed an increase in the number of theft, robbery, and piracy at sea incidents from January to August 2020 during the COVID19 pandemic, specifically within Manila Bay and Batangas Bay, Philippines. These two locations, are among the "area of concern" with ten (10) incidents recorded.

The increase in the number of ships in the designated anchorage in Manila Bay and Batangas Bay was due to the declaration of Manila as a **GREEN Zone for crew change** to help seafarers, both Filipinos and foreign nationals, to take their vacation after being stranded on board ship due to lockdown. Given this situation, the theft and robbers were able to conduct their illegal activities by sneaking to the ships with low freeboards and targeting seafarers onboard who are considered unarmed and non-combatant.

In view of these reported incidents, all concerned are hereby reminded to be **extra vigilance and watchful of possible theft, robbery and piracy attacks** while effecting crew change in the said areas including the analytical insights into the incidents and the perpetrators' observed modus operandi.

Further, in order to safeguard the lives of seafarers from the perpetrators, both onboard Philippine registered ships and foreign flag ships, during crew change within the area of concern, the Administration recommends to adopt the

following measures provided by IFC and to be implemented while transiting Philippine waters or anchored within the areas of concern:

1. Activate the ship's Automatic Identification System (AIS) at all times;
2. Timely reporting to the local authorities;
3. Increase vigilance in watch-keeping and deploy additional lookouts. Be wary of suspicious small boats approaching. Take a photo of the suspicious boat and send it to IFC.
4. Participate in the IFC Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) System and provide a status update, while in transit, as much as possible;
5. Use of CCTV cameras for coverage of vulnerable areas (if available);
6. Keep ship's whistle, searchlights, and foghorn ready for immediate use;
7. Secure or lift external ladders to prevent their use and to restrict external access to the bridge;
8. Deploy Self-Protection Measures (SPM), eg. Rig the water spray hoses and foam monitors in a fixed position. Evasive manoeuvres have also been proven to deter perpetrators in the areas of concern;
9. Secure all doors and hatches, providing access to the accommodation and machinery spaces; and,
10. Rig safety precautionary measures on the anchor cable hawse pipe while anchored.

The measures as herein given shall be incorporated in the safety management systems (SMS) of companies operating Philippine-registered ships.

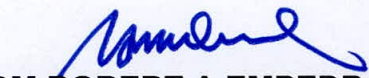
All concerned are likewise enjoined to coordinate and immediately report any suspicious individuals or groups to concerned government agencies and in the IFC with contact details as follows, for any possible assistance:

1. Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
Email: contactcenter@marina.gov.ph
2. Batangas Maritime Regional Office (MRO4)
Email: mro4@marina.gov.ph
3. Philippine Coast Guard Action Center
MMS Radio – Channel 16
Mobile No.: +63 917 842 8249
Tel No.: +63 8527-8481 local 6136
Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

- 4 Information Fusion Center (Singapore)
Phone Number : +65 9626 8965 and +65 6594 57289
Email: IFC_DO@defence.gov.sg

Finally, please be informed that a copy of the above-mentioned document from IFC can be downloaded at the MARINA website at www.marina.gov.ph.

For the information, guidance and strict compliance of all concerned.


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Administrator

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