



THE

MARINA NEWSLETTER

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EMPEDRAD APPOINTS 47 EMPLOYEES

Administrator Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) has recently appointed in January this year a total of 47 employees to fill up the various vacant plantilla positions of the Agency nationwide. 36 newly appointed employees will assume their posts at the Central Office while 11 in MARINA Regional Offices.

Since his assumption into office in March 2020, Administrator Empedrad has already appointed a total of ___ employees. He has consistently prioritized the filling-up of vacant plantilla positions in order to augment the existing staff complement of the Agency to assist in the delivery of frontline services to maritime industry stakeholders. This is likewise a component of the 10- point Agenda of the Administrator.

While most of the appointments are in the form of promotion for insiders, the Agency was also able to recruit new faces and new bloods to join the workforce of the Agency.

The list of newly appointed employees is reflected below:

A. STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION & WATCHKEEPING OFFICE (STCWO)

1. Atty Sharon L De Chavez- Aledo, Chief Administrative Officer; 2. Ms Janine V Fajardo, Accountant III; 3. Ms Maryland V De Castro, Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist (Sr MIDS); 4. Ms Wilma M dela Cruz, Sr MIDS; 5. Ms Katherine Rose B Canlas, Sr MIDS; 6. Ms Lea G Malunes, Sr MIDS; 7. Mr George B Cadano, Computer Maintenance Technologist III; 8. Ms Hannah Mae S Atienza, MIDS I 9. Ms Angelica Karizz P Amurao, Legal Aide;

B. MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE



MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) administers the oath taking of newly appointed employees.

SERVICE (MFAS)

1. Mr Edward Jeune D Estandarte, Accountant II;
2. Ms Kris Ann G Ponce, Admin Officer IV
3. Yvonne Sybil C Montenegro, Admin Officer II;
4. Ms Marimel J Bandolis, Administrative Officer II;

C. MARITIME SAFETY SERVICE (MSS)

1. Engr Divinagracia F Talosa, Chief, Shipping Operations Specialist;
2. Engr Ronilo C Galvez, Engineer III;
3. Engr. Carl Kenneth C Caluza, Sr MIDS;
4. Engr Arnel Arnulfo C Actub, Sr Shipping Operations Specialist;
5. Engr Leslie C Bangayan, Shipping Operations Specialist II;
6. Engr Linberg Peter M Vivas, Shipping Operations Specialist I.

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The Editorial Board welcomes contributions. Interested officials and employees are invited to submit their articles through email address miss@marina.gov.ph.

Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this Newsletter.

EMPEDRAD APPOINTS...

D. OVERSEAS SHIPPING SERVICE (OSS)

1. Ms Althea Marie E Calag, Sr MIDS; 2. Ms Darhla May Y Naval, MIDS II; 3. Ms Charmane Anne J Dela Cruz, MIDS II; 4. Mr Benjo G Pacheco, MIDS II

E. SHIPYARDS REGULATION SERVICE (SRS)

1. Engr Maria Teresa B Mamisao, Chief Shipbuilding Specialist; 2. Engr Melchor Blaire M Yap, Supervising Shipbuilding Specialist

F. ENFORCEMENT SERVICE (ES)

1. Mr Vien Constantine C Mesina, Sr MIDS; 2. Mr, Neil Anselm L Balayo, MIDS II

G. FRANCHISING SERVICE (FS)

1. Mr Joey Hermi J Pedrena, MIDS II; 2. Ms Janelle R Bituin, Admin Assistant III; 3. Ms Raquel G Palomo, Admin Assistant III; 4. Ms Merylle D Samarista, Admin Aide IV.

H. PLANNING AND POLICY SERVICE (PPS)

1. Ms Trisha May S Zambrano, Planning Officer I

I. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND SYSTEMS SERVICE (MISS)

1. Dr Joseph Victor S Generato, Information Officer V;
2. Ms Ciara C Cueno, Information Systems Analyst II;
3. Engr Jed Arvin R Gavina, Computer Programmer II.

J. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1&2 (San Fernando City, La Union)

1. Engr Jess Avel B Siales, Shipping Operations Specialist II

K. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 4 (Batangas City)

1. Atty Argelique M Divino, Attorney II; 2. Mr Lucio B delas Alas, MIDS II; 3. Ms. Belen N Bacosa;
4. Ms Yeihsa Claudette Villanueva, Administrative
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MARINA TIGHTENS APPLICATION OF ANTI-FOULING PAINTS, SYSTEMS IN SHIPS

To prevent the utilization of harmful anti-fouling paints and systems that contain harmful substances, the Maritime Industry Authority has provided the required rules and regulations on the application of anti-fouling paints and systems in ships, pursuant to the requirements of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems in Ships otherwise known as the AFS Convention.

According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), AFS Convention prohibits the use of harmful organotins in anti-fouling paints used on ships and establishes a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems.

In promoting the protection of the marine environment from invasive species and pollution from ships, anti-fouling paints are used to coat the bottoms of ships to prevent sealife such as algae and molluscs attaching themselves to the hull – thereby slowing down the ship and increasing fuel consumption.

In fulfillment of its international obligations under the AFS Convention, the Philippines through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) issued Memorandum Circular No. SR-2020-04 as its national provision to give full and complete effect to the said Convention. The Philippines deposited its Instrument of Accession to the IMO on 06 June 2018 through the Philippine Embassy in London.

MARINA's issuance of Circular No. SR 2020-04 intends to minimize, if not completely eliminate the environmental effects of organotin compounds in anti-fouling systems to prevent the attachment of unwanted organisms on ships. Organotin compounds, which act as biocides in anti-fouling



Drone shot of ships in Batangas Port, Batangas City

systems, persist in the water, killing sea life, harming the environment and possibly entering the food chain.

This Circular covers all MARINA-registered shipbuilding, ship repair, boatbuilding, boat repair, and shipbreaking entities including domestic ships as well as merchant ships trading international waters regardless of their Registry whenever they enter the Philippine maritime jurisdiction. Ships entering a port, shipyard, or offshore terminal in the Philippine, are likewise included.

The application, reapplication, installation, or use of anti-fouling systems on ships, as well as those while in any port, shipyard, or offshore terminal, shall be prohibited and restricted, respectively.

Moreover, all ships of 24 meters in length and above and/or 400GT, and above shall be issued with an AFS Certificate and records of anti-fouling system and shall at all times carry onboard the copy of the said certificate.

Ships that fail to comply with the anti-fouling system under the AFS Convention shall undergo repair or replacements to completely comply with the said convention.

In addition to these, all MARINA-registered shipyards, boatyards, shipbreaking yards are required to ensure that any waste from the application or removal of an anti-fouling system is collected, handled, treated and disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner to protect human health and the environment.

MARINA TO PROCESS SRBS, SIDS ON SATURDAYS FOR 1ST QUARTER OF 2021



Personnel of the Manpower Development Service (MDS) render overtime services on Saturday, 23 January 2021 to process applications for the issuance of Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) and Seafarer Identity Documents (SID)

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has commenced the operations of its processing centers at its main office in Port Area, Manila beginning Saturday, 23 January 2021, for the issuance of Seafarers' Record Books (SRB) and Seafarers' Identity Documents (SID) in response to the growing public clamor to open more slots and accommodate walk-in applicants especially for seafarers who are scheduled to join their vessels anytime soon after completing their mandatory 14-day quarantine period in accredited hotels.

At its Regional Office in Batangas City, the MARINA extends an hour daily for SRB/SID processing/issuance.

The MARINA issues an average of 5,000 SIDs and SRBs weekly nationwide.

Capt Jeffrey P Solon, Officer-in-Charge at the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Planning said that he has taken seriously legitimate issues raised by concerned seafarers, particularly on availability of slots and has requested staff responsible for the processing of these documents to extend further their services. Capt Solon is the official responsible for overseeing the issuance of these seafarer-related documents and sees that this kind of overtime arrangement will run until the end of March this year.

"We have allowed walk-in applications in all MARINA Offices nationwide but Regional Directors have been given the full discretion to determine the number of slots that they can accommodate for applicants

without appointments in consideration of existing health protocols and the number of staff available to process these documents", Capt Solon further added.

The MARINA is currently investigating on allegations against some unscrupulous individuals reserving and selling slots for SRB/SID issuance at a certain cost.

"We encourage our seafarers to report these kind of illegal practices directly to the Office of the Administrator through email address: admin_hotline@mail.marina.gov.ph so appropriate actions will be done, including coordination with law enforcement agencies.

The SRB/SID system is scheduled to undergo a systems and security audit this first semester to be carried out by independent IT experts to further enhance its integrity and credibility.

MARINA, however, reminds all its valued clients when transacting business to be mindful of health protocols such as by wearing face masks and face shields, observing social distancing, bringing sanitizers, and registering in the Online Health Monitoring Portal by scanning the quick response (QR) code displayed in the entrance of all MARINA Offices.

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MARINA, LANDBANK INK MOA FOR E-PAYMENT



Through a virtual ceremony, the MARINA, together with the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the provision of an e-payment facility for the Agency by using the Landbank LinkBiz Portal

To actively promote the ease of doing business campaign of the Philippine government, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), together with the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the provision of an e-payment facility for the Agency by using the Landbank LinkBiz Portal on Thursday, 14 January 2021.

The Landbank LinkBiz portal is a web-based payment channel that allows clients from both the government and private sectors to pay for products and services via the internet. By integrating the MARINA Payment Facility, payments for MARINA-related services can now be made online.

Through a virtual ceremony, on behalf of MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad AFP (Ret), Capt. Jeffrey Solon, Officer-in-Charge of Office of the Deputy Administrator for Planning (ODAP), expressed the Agency's appreciation to the LBP for the partnership as this can greatly help the MARINA in fulfilling its mandates for the maritime sector.

"With the eventual implementation of this memorandum of agreement, the MARINA looks forward to maximizing the use of this e-payment facility as our modest contribution to the government's efforts for ease of doing business, and also adhere to the principles and practices of good governance," Capt. Solon said.

15 IN MARINA TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

At least 15 individuals at the Central Office of the Maritime Industry Authority in Manila have tested positive for the corona virus disease or COVID 19. These included 13 personnel, 1 utility and 1 security staff.

The MARINA has already advised its stakeholders who visited or transacted business at the 3rd, 10th and 11th floors of the Agency beginning Monday, 18 January 2021 are strongly advised to monitor their health conditions and have themselves tested should they manifest any symptom of the disease.

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Aide IV

L. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 7 (Cebu City)

1. Engr Diocariza A Ocariza, Sr Shipbuilding Specialist; 2. Engr Rochyl M Villamor, Engineer II; Mr Mr. Jijan C Brigole, Accountant I

M. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 10 (Cagayan De Oro City)

1. Ms Txabielyn M Beltran, Admin Assistant III

N. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 11 (Davao City)

1. Engr Mark Vincent N Caballo, Sr Shipping Specialist

O. MARINA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 12 (General Santos City)

1. Ms Josephine C Delvo, MIDS II

For their part, Ms, Marilou L. Villafranca, Senior Vice President of the North NCR Branches Group of the LBP, extended their deepest gratitude to MARINA, under the leadership of Administrator Empedrad, for

MARINA PREPARES 4-YEAR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY VOYAGE PLAN, PURSUES MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS INTEGRATION AND AUTOMATION OF SERVICES NATIONWIDE

In a move to further enhance the delivery of its frontline services and to promote the ease of doing business, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has commenced the preparation of a 4-year roadmap for its information technology, which aims to modernize its information technology equipment and facilities, integrate existing and develop new information systems, as well as automate its processes nationwide.

The roadmap covers the period of 2021 to 2024, and it directly supports the implementation of the 10-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), particularly Program 8, which covers the Establishment of Maritime Knowledge and Innovation Center (MKIC).

In a virtual workshop organized to review and update its Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) recently, it has been revealed that more than 300 desktop computers currently in use have been acquired more than 6 years ago, and the internet connectivity in most of MARINA Regional Offices has relatively low bandwidth. At this event, representatives from DICT provided a comprehensive background on how funding for information technology and communications facilities, systems development acquisition/maintenance is undertaken in government.

MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) said that the first step towards implementing digital connectivity of all MARINA offices requires the modernization of its basic office equipment such as computers, laptops and printers. It also demands the need to increase the speed of internet connection for inter and intra office interface to ensure seamless, safe and secure digital transactions of stakeholders with the Agency.

"The MARINA will tap its available funds currently under the safekeeping of the Philippine International

Trading Corporation (PITC) for this purpose as a way forward, at least for this year" Administrator Empedrad further said.

In the area of digital transaction, systems development and deployment, the MARINA will roll-out the following initiatives in 2021:

1. E-payment System through the LinkBiz portal of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) for all MARINA transactions other than those involving the issuance of Certificates of Endorsement (COE), Certificates of Proficiency (COP), Seafarer Record Book (SRB) and the Seafarer Identity Document (SID);

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MARINA, LANDBANK INK MOA FOR E-PAYMENT

trusting Landbank in providing safe and secured cashless payment services through their LinkBiz portal facility.

"Following our MOA signing today, this e-payment facility will be made available to your clients - allowing them to settle their monetary obligations to MARINA in a faster, more secured, and convenient manner," SVP Villafranca stated.

Both MARINA and LBP believed that this initiative is also very timely and relevant, as more and more Filipinos demand for contactless financial solutions in the new normal. The banking and maritime sector were both witnesses to how much the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the banking public to adopt digital payments.

The MOA was signed by Capt. Solon, on behalf of MARINA Administrator Empedrad, and the LBP Senior Vice-President of the North NCR Branches Group Ms. Marilou L. Villafranca.



2. Phase I of the Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System (IDSIS-1), an online facility that allows the filing, evaluation, payment and processing of domestic shipping related applications such as the following: accreditation of shipowners/operators; vessel name clearance; ship acquisition; vessel plans approval; ship construction certificate; tonnage measurement certificate; issuance of certificate of ownership/ certificate of Philippine Registry; and issuance of coastwise license; bay and river license; and pleasure yacht license;

3. Online Health Monitoring for Seafarers, Stakeholders and Visitors transacting business with the Agency. The system requires clients to scan a quick response (QR) code through their mobile phones before entering MARINA premises nationwide. This is being implemented as a measure to facilitate contact tracing of individuals who may be falling ill with the present virus;

4. Centralized Portal for Online Help Desk for MARINA stakeholders who may have concerns with the Agency. The system allows the automatic generation of a ticket reference number for issues submitted at the portal and a copy in pdf format reflecting the concern, and sending to the registered email of the concerned individual. This is intended to facilitate resolutions of issues or complaints submitted;

5. Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS), which is an online tool used to manage records of MARINA employees, as well as to posthuman resources related transactions such as leave and payroll. This system will be made available for all MARINA Offices nationwide, and;

6. Municipal Fishing Vessel Information System (MFVIS), a system developed intended to assist various local government units and relevant government agencies mandated to regulate the registration of small boats below 3 gross tonnage as a way to enhance the administration and implementation of maritime safety in coastal areas in the country.

The MARINA is currently undertaking the development of the following systems:

1. MARINA E-Library System, which will serve as a portal for the repository of maritime-related publications produced by the MARINA and the private sector for academic researches, policy development, project management, among others;

2. Phase II of the Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System (IDSIS-2), which is the continuation of IDSIS-1 that allows the online filing, evaluation and payment, remote encoding of ship inspection data and subsequent issuance of the different ship safety inspection certificates such as the following: Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (PSSC), Cargo Ship Safety Certificate (CSSC), Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate (CSSCC), Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (CSSEC), Fishing Vessel Ship Safety Certificate (FVSC), Exemption Certificate (EC), Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk (CFCLG), and High-Speed Craft Safety Certificate (HSCSC), and;

3. MARINA Blockchain-Enabled Automated Certification Management System, a web-enabled information system that guarantees the authenticity and security of documents or certificates stored in the MARINA database, which cannot be tampered or altered. To be developed and implemented in several phases, this blockchain technology targets ship-related certificates for the first phase before embarking on other issuances and certificates.

Parallel to these efforts will be a periodic audit and assessment of existing information systems to sustain the integrity and the security of data of stakeholders in the MARINA database.

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MARINA LIFTS MORATORIUM ON MARITIME TRAINING CENTERS, ASSESSMENT CENTERS



Maritime students undergo training onboard ship.

Recognizing the role of MTIs and ACs as indispensable partners in implementing training and assessment requirements as mandated under the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued Advisory No. 2021-01, which lifts the moratorium or the temporary prohibition on the acceptance of applications for the approval of Maritime Training Courses and Assessment Centers.

The lifting is in accordance with the Presidential Decree 474, Republic Act. No. 10635 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, as well as the study conducted by the Agency.

The issued Advisory No. 2021-01 expressly repeals STCW Advisory No. 2017-16, entitled "Moratorium on the Approval of Maritime Training Courses" and thus, lifting the moratorium on the accreditation of maritime training courses. Existing and newly formed Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) that intend to offer programs or courses shall be required to comply with the requirements prescribed in Annex B of the aforementioned Advisory.

Aside from MTIs, MARINA, through the said Advisory, also lifts the moratorium on the accreditation of assessment centers (ACs). In effect, the aforementioned Advisory expressly repeals STCW Advisory No. 2018-02, entitled, "Standards for Mandatory Training Courses Under the STCW

Convention, 1978, as Amended."

Hence, existing and newly formed ACs that intend to offer assessment of competency shall be required to comply with the requirements prescribed in Annex B of the aforementioned Advisory.

In addition, MTIs and ACS that intend to offer programs or courses and assessment of competency shall likewise comply with the existing MARINA circulars, policies, rules and regulations in the accreditation of Maritime Training Programs or Courses, and Assessment of Competency.

MARINA reminds the concerned MTIs and ACs that submission of fraudulent or fake documents or usage of cloned, imitation, or pirated equipment and simulators shall be ground for disapproval of the application for accreditation.

Submissions must be done electronically through cloud or Google Drive, or by sending it to stcw_accr@marina.gov.ph. Inquiries and other concerns may also be addressed through the same email.

Lastly, MARINA assures the public that it continuously commits to produce globally competitive seafarers by maintaining the quality of maritime education and training in the country despite the rising number of confirmed cases of COVID-19.



Maritime students undergo maritime training.

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