



THE

# MARINA NEWSLETTER

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## MARINA RELEASES SEAFARER-RELATED GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ECQ IN NCR PLUS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has recently released guidelines for the conduct of trainings, examination and assessments, and issuance of STCW certificates, as well as for Seafarers Record Book and other manpower development related issuances, in view of the implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in NCR Plus (NCR, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal) which started last 29 March 2021 until 04 April 2021.

### STCW-RELATED CERTIFICATES

For the issuance of STCW related certificates, only expedite applications for COC/COP of seafarers was processed from 29 – 31 March 2021 at the MARINA Central Office. Meanwhile, all other seafarers with confirmed appointments from 29-31 March 2021 for the issuance, revalidation or replacement of COP/COC within NCR Plus shall be rescheduled from 5 April 2021.

However, the filing of applications for the said certificates will only be accepted online via MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) System until 31 March 2021, as the said system will undergo preventive maintenance starting 01 April 2021 at 12:01 AM until 05 April 2021 at 12:01 AM as well.

On the other hand, for the examinations, all scheduled theoretical examination and final evaluation of theoretical examination applications, from 29 – 31 March 2021 at the MARINA Central Office, are temporarily suspended. New schedule of theoretical examination and final evaluation will be provided by the Examination and Assessment Division (EAD) of the STCW Office to respective examinees through text message or SMS and e-mail.



While appointments affected by the ECQ in the NCR Plus are set to be rescheduled, seafarers are encouraged to process their applications at nearby MARINA Regional Offices (MROs).

MARINA reminds that all those seafarers, who will not be able to take the examination or attend the final evaluation on the given date, may still request to reschedule their transaction to later available date through SMS or email, and not necessarily report personally at the MARINA Office to secure new schedule.

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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](mailto:miss@marina.gov.ph).

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

**SEAFARER RELATED GUIDELINES..**

Likewise, all practical assessments including of Assessment Centers (ACs), as well as scheduled face-to-face classes and practical assessments, within the NCR Plus are suspended during the period of ECQ.

**SEAFARERS RECORD BOOK AND OTHER MDS RELATED ISSUANCES**

For the issuance of Seafarers Record Book and other Manpower Development Service (MDS) related issuances, during the implementation of ECQ, filing of applications before the Manpower Development Service (MDS) through Online Appointment System (OAS) shall still be accepted.

While acceptance of walk-in applicants is still temporarily suspended, only the expedite processing shall be processed. Meanwhile, Seafarers with confirmed appointments affected during the duration of the declared Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) at the Central Office, SM MANILA, POEA and PITX shall be rescheduled to later date without forfeiture of their payment or upon the resumption of operation or lifting of the ECQ.

MARINA, meanwhile, encourages seafarers, who are not affected by ECQ declaration, to process their applications to different MARINA Regional Offices (MROs) nearest to your locations.

Finally, all scheduled face-to-face classes of all Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs), located in the NCR Plus offering domestic training courses under MARINA Circular 2020-05, are hereby suspended during the ECQ. Affected MTIs are advised to reschedule their training accordingly.

## MARINA, A YEAR UNDER ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT A EMPEDRAD'S COMMAND



One year ago, on the 16th of March 2020, current Maritime Industry Authority Administrator Robert A Empedrad assumed his position just as the Philippines was placed under Community Quarantine during the onset of the pandemic. He was given the challenge of keeping the MARINA afloat while the country struggled to wage a war against an invisible enemy known as the COVID-19 virus.

Despite the health crisis, Administrator Empedrad stands his ground and continues to uphold the culture of excellence and integrity while being receptive to the needs of maritime stakeholders and Filipino seafarers.

As the MARINA completes a year under his command, it is still dedicated to continuing the trend of providing quality service and issuing the necessary policies and protocols that align with the current developments amidst the pandemic.

## DUTERTE APPOINTS VADM MEDINA AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STCW OFFICE, MARINA



MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad poses beside newly-appointed Executive Director of the STCW Office, Vice Admiral Rene Villena Medina.

Vice Admiral Rene Villena Medina AFP (Ret) has been appointed and sworn into duty as the new Executive Director of the STCW Office of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in a simple ceremony held today, 30 March 2021.

Prior to the appointment of VADM Medina, Engr. Nannette V Dinopol was designated as Officer-in-Charge, STCWO in a concurrent capacity as Deputy Administrator for Operations.

MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad expressed his gratitude to Engr. Dinopol, who also received a Certificate of Appreciation for a job well done as the Officer-in-Charge of the STCWO, by sharing a bible verse from Proverbs 3:27, which states "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due (its rightful recipients), when it is in your power to do it."

VADM Medina, on the other hand, takes on the duties and responsibilities of the previous Executive Director VADM Narciso A Vingson, Jr, AFP (Ret), who is now serving as the Assistant Secretary for Maritime under the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad welcomes this new development, stating that VADM Medina's appointment is a promising step forward in the right  
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direction for the Agency, which is at the helm of ensuring the Philippines' full compliance to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, 1978, as amended.

For VADM Medina's impeccable credentials, Administrator Empedrad highlighted a bible verse from Exodus 18:21 about delegating capable leaders, which states "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens."

Having a superior work ethic, VADM Medina was given numerous significant positions in the AFP and PCG.

Prior to his appointment at the MARINA, VADM Medina served for two years as the Commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, the largest naval operating command in the country.

During his tenure, Western Mindanao experienced a time when there were zero kidnapping incidents at sea.



STCW Office Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene Villena Medina taking his oath as he is sworn into office.

For two consecutive years, VADM Medina was the recipient of the prestigious award for Naval Operating Forces of the Year. He was also the 32nd Commander of Western Command— a unified command, described by many as the most strategic and complex area command in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

In the earlier years of his career, Vice Admiral Medina also served the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in different capacities. Being known for his versatility and diligence in work, he was chosen to serve as the Flag Lieutenant

and Flag Secretary to the PCG Commandant Commo Carlos L Agustin AFP (Ret). He was also the Port State Control Officer, South Harbor Manila. Additionally, VADM Medina also served as the Commander of Sealift Amphibious Force and Commander of Naval Education and Training Command, respectively.

On top of his many awards and recognitions, VADM Medina also received the esteemed Order of the Lapu-Lapu, personally awarded to him by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. The Order of the Lapu-Lapu is a national order of merit usually granted to those who have exhibited an extraordinary standard of service in their respective positions.

VADM Medina was born on 30 May 1964 in Sirawai, Zamboanga Del Norte, Mindanao. He finished his secondary education at Ozamiz City National High School and entered the Philippine Military Academy in 1982, graduating as a member of the illustrious "Sinagtala" Class of 1986. He also graduated as a pioneer of Coast Guard Station Commander Course and Boarding Officer Course, both taken from Coast Guard Training Center in the year 1994. He had also completed his shipboard tour to include being in command of four Philippine Navy vessels, the BRP Leopoldo Regis(PG847), BRP Apollo Tiano (PG851), BRP Salvador Abcede(PG114), and BRP Artemio Ricarte(PS37).

## MARINA LEADS PHL DELEGATION IN ASEAN MTWG

Upholding its commitment in boosting regional cooperation and technological exchange, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) led the Philippine delegation during the 40th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) and 13th ASEAN-CHINA Maritime Consultation Meeting (ACMCM) held last 09 to 10 March 2021 via videoconferencing.

Headed by Ms. Precila C. Jara, Officer-In-Charge of the MARINA's Overseas Shipping Service (OSS), the Philippines shared its plans, updates, and interventions regarding port and land transport infrastructure development, capacity improvement of the ASEAN

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network ports, Davao-General Santos-Bitung Route Ro-Ro operation, policies/best practices on the improvements of the quality and efficiency of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) management in ports, ASEAN Green Ship Strategy, best practices on maintaining efficient port operations, as well as on crew change and seafarers' repatriation during pandemic or crisis, ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Studies, and ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement.

**Port and Land Transport Infrastructure Development**  
During the 40th ASEAN MTWG, the Philippines expressed its commitment in advancing the development of port infrastructure projects across the archipelago, taking into consideration the importance of the said projects in the inter-zonal movement of people and goods across the country.

"It is our commitment to ensure the efficient and effective movement of goods as well as enhance maritime connectivity and mobility, including better port access, despite the unprecedented impact of the current pandemic," Mr. Jara said.

The Philippine delegation likewise shared to the ASEAN Member States that the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has already completed 27 projects wherein 16 of these are set to be inaugurated soon. In addition, more projects are underway which are expected to benefit the people of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

#### **Capacity Improvement of the ASEAN Network Ports**

Amidst the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the port authorities have continued to work on the progress and completion of projects, including those in the nine (9) identified ASEAN ports, in order to meet local and global trade and tourism demands of the future while ensuring the safety of the maritime workers. The nine (9) ASEAN ports are the Manila International Container Terminal, Manila South Harbor, Batangas Port, Davao Port or Sasa Wharf, Port of Zamboanga, Port of Cagayan de Oro, Port of Cebu, Port of Iloilo, and Port of General Santos.

#### **Davao-General Santos-Bitung Route Ro-Ro Operation**

Ms. Jara informed the ASEAN Member States that coordination between the Philippines and Indonesia is

continuous to ensure the sustainability of the Davao-General Santos-Bitung Route particularly on the trade aspect. She also added that both private and public sectors have initiated consultations to address the cargo volume requirements.

#### **Quality and Efficiency of the SHE Management in Ports**

The Philippine delegation reported in the 40th ASEAN MTWG that the Philippines, through the PPA, has nine (9) ports implementing the Integrated Management System, while 15 ports, including the PPA-Head Office, are certified under the Quality Management System. Moreover, the PPA likewise ordered the mandatory planting of trees and mangroves for every contract, accreditation and permits issued by the said agency.



The Philippine delegation was led by Ms. Precila C. Jara, Officer-In-Charge of the MARINA STCWO.

The Philippine delegation also shared its policies and practices in relation with Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) management.

#### **ASEAN Green Ship Strategy**

In relation with the ASEAN Green Ship Strategy, the Philippines, through the MARINA, issued MARINA Circular No. SR 2020-06 in November 2020, which aims to ensure that all Philippine-registered ships comply with the sulphur limit on fuel oil in compliance with MARPOL 73/78 Annex VI. Moreover, additional circulars on Fuel Oil Consumption Data collection, and Energy Efficiency Design Index are currently being formulated.

Likewise, MARINA is coordinating with an offshore plant engineering cooperative for possible collaboration regarding hybrid ships, energy efficiency, and alternative fuels.

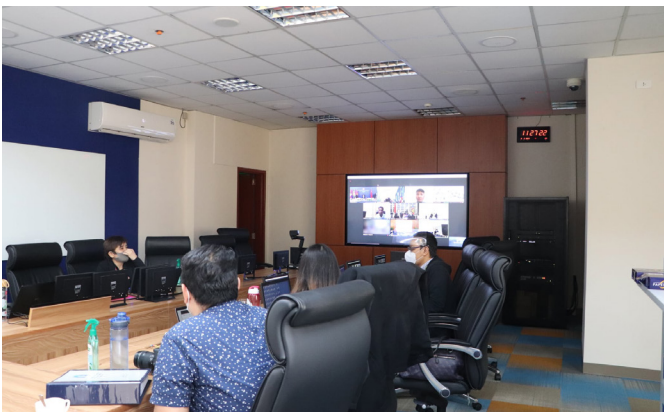
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## MARINA LEADS PH DELEGATION ASEAN MTWG

### *Best Practices During COVID-19 Pandemic*

Recognizing the global impact of the pandemic to the economy, health systems, transport and trade facilitation, as well as to the lives of the people, the Philippines expressed its support on the implementation of the sharing of best practices in maintaining efficient port operations, as well as on crew change and seafarers' repatriation during pandemic or crisis.

"This exchange of information is very timely and can be vital as we continue to address the old and new challenges of the maritime sector. Rest assured that the Philippines will actively participate in this endeavor and contribute to the discussion of the MTWG," Ms. Jara highlighted.



The 40th ASEAN MTWG and the 3th ACMCM was an avenue to present the Philippines' best practices amidst the pandemic and future plans for Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) management in ports.

### **ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Studies and ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement**

In line with ASEAN's project proposal on the conduct of the ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Study, the Philippine delegation informed the Member States that consultations are still ongoing, particularly with regards to the budget aspect.

On the other hand, the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement is still under discussion of the ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN-China Maritime Transport Study aims to assess economic benefits of shipping network and identification of possible cooperation areas between ASEAN and China.

Meanwhile, the ASEAN-India Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement is intended to strengthen maritime connectivity between India and ASEAN.

### **40th ASEAN MTWG**

The 40th ASEAN MTWG aims to discuss the decisions made by the higher ASEAN transport sectoral bodies in 2020, progress of implementation of maritime-transport related measures under the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategy Plan, new initiatives, working groups' work plan, cooperation with transport-affiliated private sector organizations and dialogue partners, and ASEAN's partnership with the IMO.

## MARINA PILOT TESTS ONLINE SYSTEM FOR 8 DOMESTIC SHIPPING APPLICATIONS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has commenced the deployment of the first phase of its online system for domestic shipping dubbed as the "Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System" (IDSIS), and will undergo pilot testing at its Regional Offices at the National Capital Region (NCR), Regional Office 1 & 2 in San Fernando City, La Union and Regional Office 4 in Batangas City beginning last 15 March 2021.

MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad said that this is a breakthrough for stakeholders in the domestic shipping industry since they can file and pay their corresponding applications on-line and receive their processed documents online in the form of QR coded e-certificates, which can be easily verifiable online.

"Domestic shipping stakeholders do not need anymore to appear personally at the MARINA to file their applications and to claim their certificates. Proteksyon din nila against COVID-19. Pero ang pinakamahalaga sa lahat ay automated na ang system at maganda itong programa to implement ease of doing business," Administrator Empedrad further said.

The IDSIS is a web-based application system that will automate processing of the different applications filed..  
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..with MARINA related to domestic shipping related activities covering the following: Accreditation of Maritime Enterprises/Entities; Vessel Name Clearance; Authority to Acquire Ship; Tonnage Measurement Certificate; Vessel Plans Approval; Certificate of Ownership (CO) / Certificate of Philippine Registry (CPR) Certificate; Coastwise License (CWL)/Bay and River License (BRL)/Pleasure Yacht License (PYL); and, Registration of Recreational Boats.

In 2020, the MARINA conducted a series of virtual hands-on training on the system for relevant private sector stakeholders, as well as MARINA users of the system nationwide. Soft implementation of the system for its Regional Offices in the Visayas Region and Mindanao Region is scheduled in April and May this year, respectively.

Full and mandatory implementation of this system is set to take place on 01 January 2022.

## PHILIPPINES HOSTS EXTRAORDINARY HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING ON MEPSEAS

Bringing together the high-level officials of the maritime administrations of the participating International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States in the ASEAN region and representatives of the Marine Environment Protection of the Southeast Asian Seas (MEPSEAS) Project's strategic partners, the Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), hosted the Extraordinary High-Level Regional Meeting (EHLRM) on MEPSEAS last 17 March 2021 via video conferencing.

The Philippines as one of the Lead Partnering Countries (LPC) to the MEPSEAS Project, and MARINA being its National Focal Point (NFP), in coordination with IMO, conducted the EHLRM to review the changes in operational modes imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the next steps and activities to be undertaken in Year 4 of the said project. It also aims to focus on compliance monitoring and enforcement

(CME) of the high priority IMO conventions selected by the partnering beneficiary countries.

As the Chair of the said meeting, MARINA Administrator VAdm Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) reiterated the commitment of the Member States in protecting the marine environment despite the unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic to the maritime industry. "I am certain there is much to be shared and learned as we strive to face the devastating effects of the COVID-19 virus through shared cooperation. The pandemic notwithstanding, will not deter us as we remain resolute in carrying out the activities as laid down in our respective National Strategic Action Plans (NSAPs)," VAdm Empedrad said. Dr. Jose Matheickal of the IMO thanked the member countries in considering the solutions for marine environment challenges as a priority.

"The MEPSEAS Project aims to protect the marine environment and the people as well who depend their lives in this industry," Dr. Matheickal highlighted.



MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad acts as the Chair of the Extraordinary High-Level Regional Meeting (EHLRM) on MEPSEAS.

During the meeting proper, the IMO Project Coordination Unit (PCU) gave updates on the project, the risk mitigation actions taken and lessons learned in the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the PCU likewise introduced the work plan and future key milestones as member countries move to MEPSEAS Year 4.

Meanwhile, delegates from the participating beneficiary countries reported the development in their scorecards and adoption of their respective NSAPs, including successes and challenges in completing the NAP activities related to the accession of the chosen IMO Conventions.



Assistant Secretary for Maritime of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), VAdm Narciso A Vingson Jr, as Head of the Philippine Delegation, discussed the developments in implementing the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems in Ships and International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the Philippines.

As part of the country's sustainable mechanism, VAdm Vingson mentioned that the country will institutionalize the inter-agency mechanism, strengthen the MARINA Maritime Training Institute, mainstream implementation of Ballast Water Management (BWM) and Anti-fouling Systems (AFS) Conventions into medium-term development plans and existing national action plans, and strengthen partnership with relevant government agencies and institutions.

The MEPSEAS Project is a 4-year project (2018-2021) of the IMO in cooperation with the Norwegian Agency for the Development (NORAD) providing assistance to East Asian countries in ratifying and implementing IMO Instruments for the protection of the marine environment. It also aims to reduce the risks and impacts of environmental issues related to maritime transport in the ASEAN region.

## MARINA PROVIDES UPDATES; UPHOLDS COLLABORATION WITH OVERSEAS SHIPPING STAKEHOLDERS

Aiming to provide updates and to strengthen collaboration with the overseas shipping stakeholders, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) convened a Private Stakeholders' Meeting last 23 March 2021 via video conferencing.

The MARINA – Overseas Shipping Service (OSS) spearheaded the discussions regarding the draft Memorandum Circular (MC) on the Implementation of the Overseas Shipping Service Information and

Management Systems (OSSIMS) and updates on OSS developmental activities.

OSSIMS is an information and monitoring system, which is designed to provide online platform, including online filing for Overseas Shipping Service – related applications. The said system is consistent with MARINA's commitment to promote transparency and sustain ease of doing business.

During the meeting, Mr. Gerico John Vincent A. Magbojos, Officer-In-Charge of the Cooperation and Strategic Maritime Initiatives Division (CSMID) of the OSS, presented the draft Memorandum Circular wherein he highlighted the objectives, in light of which the said MC is proposed. Exchanged of views and comments also transpired during the meeting for further improvement of the draft MC and OSSIMS.

Moreover, Ms. Precila C. Jara, Officer-In-Charge of the OSS, provided updates on the strategic deliverables accomplished in the 2nd semester of 2020, which include the Philippine Maritime Strategy on the Implementation and Enforcement of Relevant Instruments of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Model Draft Merchant Shipping Agreement.

She also shared the other initiatives, as well as the issues and challenges being confronted by the OSS as it upholds its commitment of promoting the Philippine ship registry.

Lastly, Ms. Jara informed the overseas shipping stakeholders of the actions to be undertaken by the OSS for the realization of Program 5: Development of a Global Maritime Hub of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

On the other hand, Director Ramon C. Hernandez of the MARINA – Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS), and the concurrent Officer-In-Charge of the Maritime Safety Service (MSS), reported the parallel efforts on Shipbuilding, Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Protection. These include promulgation of relevant policies such as MARINA Circular No. MS-2020-02 or the "Rules on the Oversight Function of MARINA in the Delegation as Flag State Administration" and MARINA Circular No. SR-2020-06 or the "Rules and Regulations on the Mandatory Use of 0.50% MM Sulphur Limit on Fuel Oil for All Philippine-registered Ships in Compliance

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During the Private Stakeholders' Meeting, participants benefited from discussions revolving around the Implementation of the Overseas Shipping Service Information and Management Systems (OSSIMS) and OSS developmental activities.

to Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78, as amended", and quite a number of Advisories, while keeping the stakeholders abreast on the recent international developments in the maritime industry.

Ms. Jara concluded the first Private Stakeholders' Meeting in 2021 by expressing MARINA's gratitude for the continued support of the overseas shipping stakeholders to the Philippine maritime industry.

## MARINA INTENSIFIES ANTI-FIXER CAMPAIGN; ACCELERATES PROCESSING OF SEAFARER-RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Manpower Development Service (MDS) of the Maritime Industry Authority, the MARINA Satellite Office in SM Manila and the MARINA Satellite Office at the PITX processed a combined total of 445 SRB/SID applications.

The MDS issued 236 SRBs/SIDs. The MARINA Satellite Office in PITX has a capacity to process 170 on Saturdays but only 74 seafarers walked-in for their applications. Meanwhile, the MARINA Satellite Office in SM Manila can accommodate 180 but only 104 seafarers went there for their applications.

Meanwhile, the Certification Office of the Standards of

Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Office is due to complete the processing of the COP/COC applications of 300 seafarers.

The MARINA continues to undertake enhancements of



The MARINA continues to open up slots for the applications of seafarer-related documents as part of its intensified campaign against fixers.

its on-line systems. In due time, slots for SRB/SID/COP/COC will be made available until the end of this year.

The MARINA calls on all seafarers and its stakeholders to support the aggressive reforms that are being implemented by avoiding the services of "fixers". Suspicious activities or individuals representing themselves as having connections to any officials or employees of the Authority are encouraged to submit reports to the Office of the Administrator.

The MARINA stands committed to serve its stakeholders better, assuring the professionalism and integrity of its officials and employees.

## MARINA JOINS THE NATION IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH 2021

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) has established March as National Women's Month, which served as an avenue for various government entities and Local Government Units (LGUs) to integrate activities in line with the campaign's annual theme: "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!"



The MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO 12) staff pose with the official National Women's Month 2021 banner posted outside their office.

During International Women's Day last 08 March 2021, MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad set the tone for the month-long celebration by acknowledging the irreplaceable role of women in the maritime sector.

Throughout the month, several MARINA Regional Offices commenced their own activities meant to celebrate women and inform the public about gender disparities that need to be brought to light.

The MARINA Regional Office VII (MRO 7) in Cebu City and MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO 12) in General Santos City observed #PurpleMondays, which encouraged employees to wear anything purple during all the Mondays of March to signify one's support for gender equality. MRO 7 also distributed advocacy notebooks and purple pens to stakeholders and conducted a webinar regarding important women's health issues, like PCOS and menopause.

Meanwhile in Tacloban City, the MARINA Regional Office VIII (MRO 8) kicked off National Women's Month 2021 by serenading and distributing flowers to female clients and employees.

The MARINA Regional Office XI (MRO 11) in Davao City arranged a webinar involving topics on Gender Development (GAD) and Leadership, together with a distribution of simple gifts for female personnel in the office.



The MARINA Regional Office XI (MRO 11) gave out simple gifts to their female staff as a gesture for National Women's Month 2021.



The ladies of MARINA Regional Office VIII (MRO 8) are serenaded and gifted with flowers as part of the month-long celebration.



## REGIONAL NEWS

## MRO 4 CONDUCTS SOFT OPENING FOR NEW SATELLITE OFFICE IN CALAPAN CITY

The MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO 4) headed by Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio, conducted a soft opening for its satellite office in Calapan City, last 01 March 2021. The addition of the satellite office in the area serves as another way to bring the government's services closer to its stakeholders.

The soft opening was attended by agencies and officials including Judge Glen Paul Armameto and representatives from the Southwestern College of Maritime, Business, and Technology, Inc. and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Personnel from other MROs also joined the event through Zoom.

The new satellite office will process applications that will be filed and received in the Province of Mindoro which is covered by the MRO 4's area of responsibility. Operations will officially commence on 08 March 2021.



MARINA Regional Office IV officials pose in front of the Calapan City extension office.



Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio cuts the ribbon as part of the soft opening ceremony.

## MRO 7 HOLDS FACE-TO-FACE MSBT

MARINA Regional Office VII (MRO 7), in coordination with the Municipality of Pinamungahan, Cebu, conducted a Modified Basic Safety Training (MBST) last 11 March 2021.

A total of 18 Boat Captains and Motormen participated in the training, which covered five different modules, followed by an oral examination.

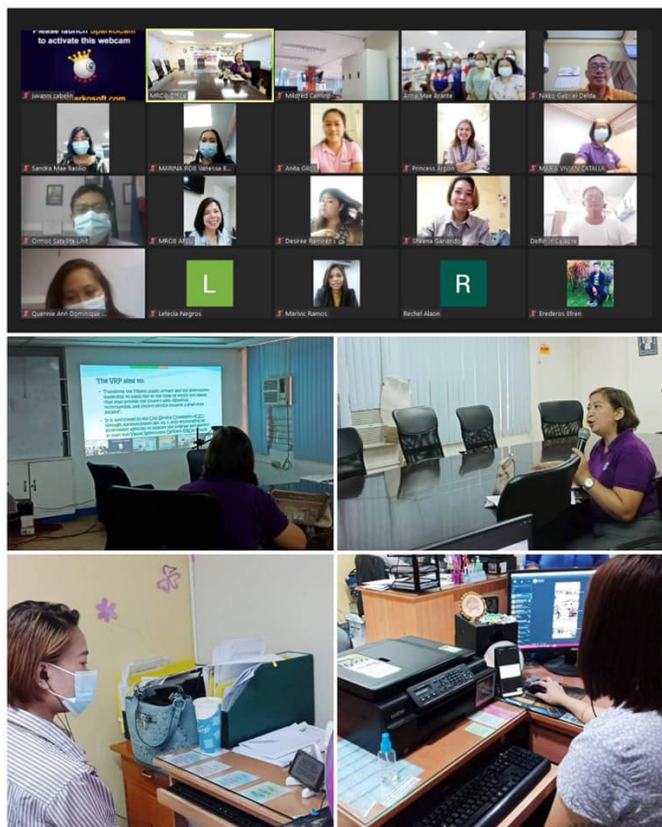
Moreover, the LGU of Pinamungahan spearheaded & assisted the licensing and certification of these local seafarers in order to relaunch the tourism-related activities of their municipality.



A total of 18 boat captains participated in the Modified Basic Safety Training (MBST), strictly observing health and safety protocols.

MRO VII supports the Province of Cebu in reviving and boosting the tourism industry.





Weekly Values Restoration Programs are conducted in line with the Civil Service Commission's (CSC)

## MRO 8 CONDUCTS VALUES RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

As a soft approach to the Civil Service Commission (CSC)'s initiative for the "transformation" of government anti-corruption initiatives, the MARINA Regional Office VIII (MRO8) conducted its weekly Values Restoration Program (VRP) last 22 March 2021 at Tacloban City.

Monday's session, which was led by Ms. Mildred M. Camino and participated by MRO8 employees, focused on the discussion of justice. All participants were encouraged and challenged to adhere to the values of fairness and integrity in their personal undertakings and workplace duties.

## MRO 10 CAMPAIGNS FOR LEGALIZATION OF MOTORBANCAS COMPLEMENTING 'BALSA' TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL, NORTHERN MINDANAO

Despite the current pandemic, Misamis Oriental has witnessed upward trends dubbed as the so-called "Balsa Fever". According to reports, there are around 200 floating rafts (balsa) in the area that are characterized by their colorful decorations. These floating cottages have captivated the hearts of fun-loving locals and are a source of livelihood for fisherfolk in the municipalities of Laguindingan and Alubjid.

In order to ensure the safety of Balsa guests, the MARINA Regional Office 10 (MRO 10), in close coordination with the LGUs, has activated its Mobile Registration/Legalization Program, also known as a 'one-stop-shop' to legalize the operation of motorbancas that carry ferry passengers to and from the Balsa's location.

For the Municipality of Laguindingan, the legalization

commenced last March 17 and was culminated March 26, 2021. During the Opening Ceremony, Mayor Diosdao T. Obsioma expressed his gratitude for MARINA's commitment and support to the municipality, and further assured of its continued partnership for the people of Laguindingan. He also urged the MARINA to hear their plea in granting the boat operators a provisional authority while their applications are on process. In response to this, Dir. Felisa N. Orongan assured the 53 boat owners and balsa operators that as long as safety requirements have been satisfactorily complied with, a temporary authority can be granted.

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