



THE

MARINA NEWSLETTER

January 2022

VOL IV No. 1 | Official Publication of the Maritime Industry Authority | Republic of the Philippines



MARINA IMPLEMENTED "NO VAX, NO RIDE" POLICY IN DOMESTIC PASSENGER SHIPS

MANILA – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) implemented the "No Vaccination, No Ride Policy" in the operation of maritime transport, particularly on board passenger ships entering and departing National Capital Region (NCR) on 17 January 2022, in line with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Department Order No. 2022 – 001 dated 11 January 2022

Through its Advisory No. 2022-03, the MARINA directed all shipping companies/operators to allow access or issue tickets only to "Fully Vaccinated Person" as evidenced by physical or digital copies of an LGU-issued vaccine card, a DOH-issued vaccine certification, or any IATF-prescribed document.

For clarification, the MARINA also emphasized that a person

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The MARINA Newsletter is published monthly by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

Write-ups or opinions expressed in this publication are exclusively and solely by the writers and they do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Agency on relevant issues.

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

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

MARINA STARTS IMPLEMENTING “NO VAX, NO RIDE” POLICY IN DOMESTIC PASSENGER SHIPS

is considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series of vaccines; or two (2) week after a single-dose vaccine.

Meanwhile, the “No Vaccination, No Ride Policy” shall not apply to the following: Persons with medical conditions that prevent full COVID-19 vaccination, as evidenced by a duly signed medical certificate with name and contact details of the physician; and persons who will procure essential goods and services, such as but not limited to food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities, energy, work, and medical and dental necessities, as evidenced by a duly issued barangay health pass or other appropriate proof to support and justify such travel.

This time around, as the country is yet again facing another surge of COVID-19 active cases, the Agency is fully supporting the government's call to hamper the rapid spread of the virus. In support also to the national government's COVID-19 Vaccination Program, the MARINA has been taking initiative to inoculate its workforce and the seafaring community for the welfare of the general public, as well as for economic reasons.

As of 14 January 2022, a total of 1,101 MARINA personnel, both from Central and Regional Offices, have been fully vaccinated – with 305 of them having already received their booster shots.

Aside from ramming efforts to give booster shots to fully vaccinated MARINA personnel, the MARINA has also activated its own clinic for its personnel to receive care quickly and conveniently throughout the regular workday with less time away from tasks.

In support of this effort, several shipowners in the country have expressed their full support on the implementation of the “No Vax, No Ride Policy”.

Relatedly, the Philippine Coastwise Shipping Association (PCSA) conveyed its approval of the policy as this will encourage more people to be vaccinated.

Ever since, the Agency has been ensuring strict compliance with standard health protocols in battling the COVID-19 pandemic through its implementation of stringent measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

EMPEDRAD MEETS WITH PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) poses for a photo opportunity with Panama Maritime Authority representatives.

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), together with other MARINA officials, met with delegates from Panama Maritime Authority on 25 January 2022.

The delegates of Panama Maritime Authority were composed of Minister of Maritime Affairs and Administrator Architect Noriel Araúz, who joined virtually, Chargé d'Affaires Consulaires, and Consulate General of Panama in the Philippines His Excellency Fabio Hidalgo Valdez, General Director of Seafarers Capt. Juan E. Maltez. They were also joined by officials from Seafarer's Documentation Office in Manila, consisting of Regional Chief

Engr. Andy Cossio, Deputy Regional Chief Engr. Roossveth Peralta, and SEGUMAR Regional Chief Engr. Rafael Eysseric.

The topics discussed in the meeting revolved around the bilateral agreements between the Philippines and Panama, particularly the recognition of certificates, continuous employment of Filipino seafarers under Panama-flagged vessels, the conduct of the Philippines-Panama Joint Committee on Maritime Affairs (JCMA) Meeting, as well as the promotion of mutual maritime interests. The country's training processes, certification processes, and technical cooperation were also tackled during the meeting.

MARINA ADVISES FILIPINO SEAFARERS TO UTILIZE CRP

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) advised all the Filipino seafarers to make full use of the Agency's Competency Reviewer Portal (CRP) in preparing for their theoretical examinations.

The MARINA CRP is an online review platform dedicated by MARINA to all seafarers who are qualified to take the theoretical examination for Merchant Marine Officers. This new online platform

of the Agency will help the Filipino seafarers to effortlessly review by themselves for their theoretical examinations without having the need to enroll in review centers.

MARINA STCW Office Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene V Medina AFP (Ret) stated that the objective of the CRP is to enhance their theoretical knowledge on their profession.

"Ginawa natin ito para tulungan ang ating mga seafarers hindi lang makapasa sa theoretical exams kung 'di madagdagan ang knowledge nila, at the same time, to save time, save money and enhance their knowledge," Vice Admiral Medina said.

Moreover, the MARINA believes that with the use of the portal, seafarers don't need to spend thousands of pesos as this platform helps them review and prepare for exams at the comfort of their homes and also even while they're onboard.

It can be remembered that last November 2021, the MARINA launched the CRP to assist seafarers, who want to advance in their professional careers, exactly to help them prepare for the theoretical part of the licensure examinations.



MARINA STCW Office Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene V Medina AFP (Ret) during his oath taking ceremony at the MARINA Central Office

EMPEDRAD MEETS WITH DOTR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN MATNOG PORT

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), led by Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), together with MARINA Regional Office V (MRO 5) Director and its personnel, participated in a coordination meeting with Department of Transportation (DOTr) officials on 20 January 2021, at Matnog, Sorsogon.

The purpose of this meeting was to resolve the present issues of queuing and congestion of rolling cargoes in Matnog Port.

Also present during the coordination meeting were

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MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) with several officials from the Department of Transportation (DOTr) maritime sector

EMPEDRAD MEETS WITH DOTR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN MATNOG PORT

DOTr Undersecretary for Maritime George V Ursabia Jr, DOTr Assistant Secretary for Communications and Commuter Affairs Goddes Hope Libiran, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Commandant Admiral Leopoldo V Larroya, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago, PPA-PMO -

Bicol Port Manager Ms. Ma. Magnolia Sinson - Requejo, CGD Bicol Commo Commander Giovanni G Bergantin, other officials from Philippine National Police (PNP), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Local Government Unit (LGU) of Matnog, and several shipping companies.

MAGANDANG BALITA PARA SA ATING MGA SEAFARERS!

LIBRE na ang Seaman's Book para sa ating mga kababayang seafarers na FIRST TIME kukuha nito! Para naman sa mga may mag-rerenew, kayo ay makakatanggap ng 50% DISCOUNT sa pagkuha nito.

Tiyak na malaking halaga ang matitipid ng mga seafarers, kumpara sa dating P1,000 to P1,800 na presyo ng Seaman's Book.

Ang programang ito ay inaprubahan ng Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Board, na ayon kay Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Art Tugade ay magiging tulong para sa ating mga bayaning seafarers, lalo na ngayong may pandemya. (c/o DOTr)

TULONG NG MARINA SA FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Ipinaliwanag ni Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Robert Empedrad na ang pag-apruba ng kanilang Board na gawing libre ang seaman's book para sa first-time applicant, habang may 50% discount naman sa renewal ay bilang tulong sa mga Filipino seafarers.



Ayon kay Administrator Empedrad, layon ng inisyatibo ng DOTr at MARINA na maibsan ang gastos ng mga bayaning marino lalo na ngayong may pandemya.

"Ang inisyatibong ito ng DOTr at MARINA ay naglalayong magbigay ng tulong sa ating mga Pilipinong marino sa gitna ng pandemya. Sa tulong nito ay kahit papano'y mababawasan ang kakailangan nilang gastusin sa pag-aasikaso ng mga dokumento. Hangad lamang po ng MARINA na patuloy na pakinggan at buong pusong tuparin ang hiling ng ating mga bayaning marino na patuloy na tumutulong sa pag-angat ng ekonomiya ng bansa

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TULONG NG MARINA SA FILIPINO SEAFARERS

habang may krisis pangkalusugan," ani Empedrad.

Ang halaga ng seaman's book dati ay nasa P1,000 to P1,800— ngayon ay LIBRE na para sa kukuha nito sa unang pagkakataon.

Inaprubahan din ng MARINA Board na magbibigay ng 50% discount hanggang December 2022 para naman sa mga seafarer na magre-renew ng kanilang mga seaman's book. (c/o DOTr)

MRO 10 DISCUSSES ITS PROJECTS WITH TUBOD LANAO DEL NORTE LGU

The MARINA Regional Office X (MRO 10) MARINA Cagayan de Oro, headed by Atty. Eusebia A. Cadlum-Boco, paid a visit to Tubod Lanao del Norte Municipal Mayor, Hon. Leoncio C. Bagol on 28 December 2021.

Topics discussed were resumption of the operation of passenger motorbanca plying Tubod-Silanga Route, conduct of actual or virtual demonstration of the admeasurement of EO 305, as well as informing

the kind Mayor that MROX offers a free Modified Basic Safety Training MBST for the passenger motorbanca and fishing vessel below 35GT.

Atty.Boco had an ocular visit of the Panguil Bay Bridge Construction Site and meet with PO2 Donczar C Galorio, PCG Tubod Sub-Station Commander and Poblacion-Tubod Punong Brgy Engr. Mark Peter P. Cabili.



MRO 13 PARTICIPATES IN LGU MAGALLANES SANGGUNIAN BAYAN SPECIAL SESSION

The MARINA Regional Office XIII (MRO 13) personnel participated in the LGU Magallanes Sangguniang Bayan special session on the Committee on Transportation, Energy, Communication and Public Utilities on 11 January 2022.

The said session agenda was to settle the clamor from the general riding public to roll back the fare matrix of pump boat operating in the route Magallanes, Agusan del Norte.

The session ended with an agreement on the fare



matrix corresponding to the maximum capacity per IATF Guidelines on COVID-19.

MV “VIRGEN DE PENAFRANCIA-X” TAKES HER MAIDEN VOYAGE – MRO IV

The MV “VIRGEN DE PENAFRANCIA-X”, owned/operated by Starhorse Shipping Lines, and homeported in MARINA Regional Office IV (Batangas City) took her maiden voyage in a missionary route: Lucena City - Masbate City - Calbayog City and vice versa.

The ship arrived at Calbayog City at around 1:45pm yesterday, 18 January 2022, with 14 passengers and 8 rolling cargoes onboard.

The estimated travel time from Lucena City to

Masbate City is 12 hours while Masbate to Calbayog City is 6 hours.

The ship implemented the “NO VACCINE, NO RIDE POLICY” same with the PPA of Calbayog City, effective last 17 January 2022.

Present during the arrival of the ship in Calbayog are personnel from MARINA, PPA, PCG, and LGU officials of Calbayog City.



GOOD NEWS! MRO 10 BUILDING SOON TO RISE

Following the approval of PhP 68.3M budget for the construction of 4-storey building of the MARINA Regional Office X (MRO 10) pursuant to GAA of 2022, a coordinative effort with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region 10 was immediately commenced by said Office on 18 January 2022.

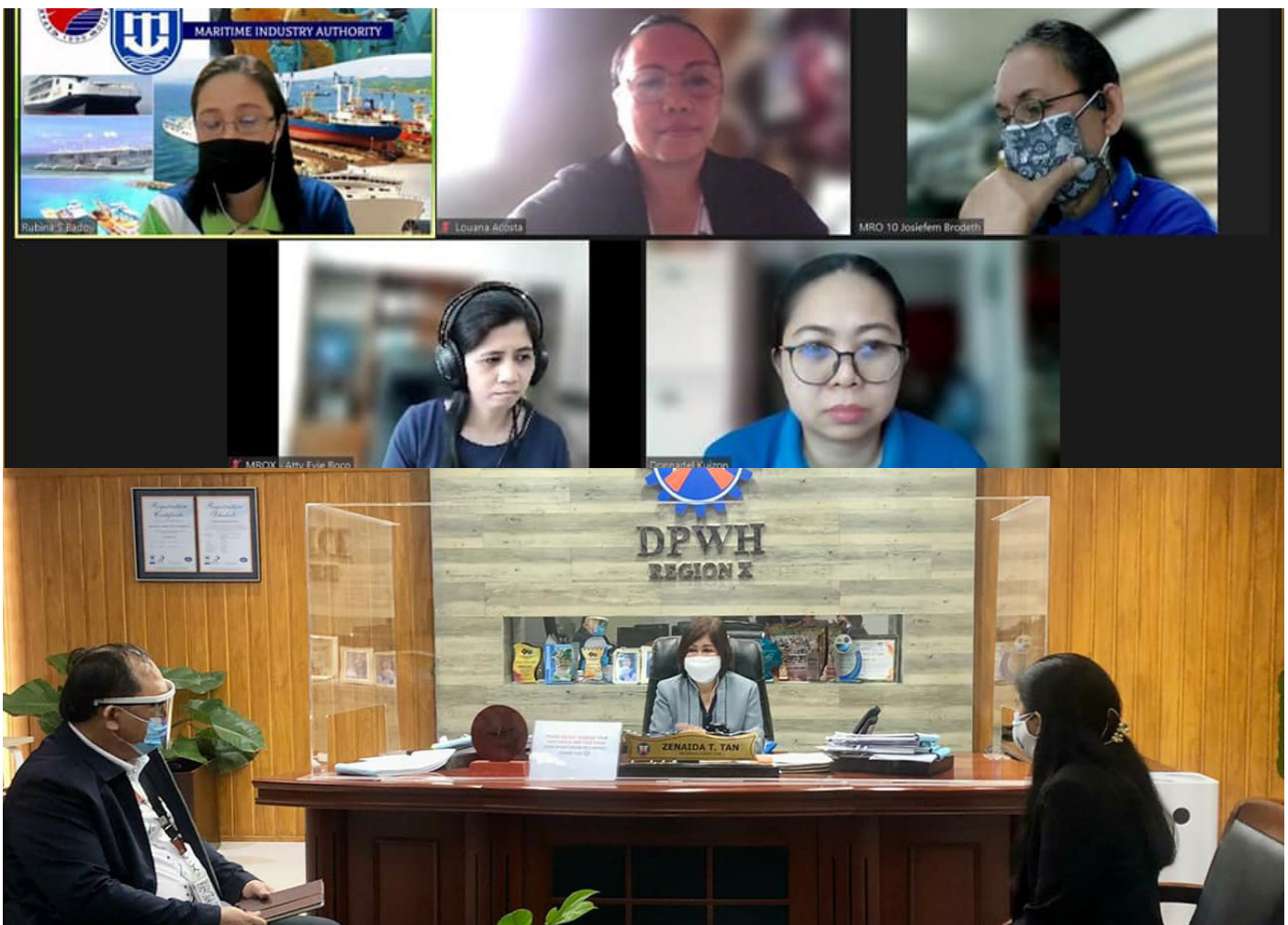
In the meeting, the DPWH Regional Director Zenaida Tan assured MRO 10 OIC Regional Director Atty. Evie Boco that the said project will be included in the Agency's priority list this year.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with the MRO 10 Technical Working Group (TWG) last Jan 17, 2022, the MARINA assures the DPWH that all pertinent documents required to commence the procurement-related activities, among others, shall be submitted soon.

It can be recalled that in 2018, the MRO 10 is a recipient of a 2,000 sq. m lot within the designated Government Center of the El Salvador City thru a Deed of Donation.

The regional office is very grateful for the assistance of the DPWH Region 10 in completing the much needed Detailed Engineering Design (DED), Parametric Costing and Program of Works.

It is also noteworthy to mention that the support of the Regional Development Council (RDC) - X, who currently chaired by Gov. Philip Tan for its endorsement of the project and the encouraging push from the RDC Secretariat, made a difference which contributed much to merit approval of budget by the Congress.



The MARINA Regional Office X (MRO 10) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region 10 commence a coordinative effort for the construction of 4-storey building of the said regional office