



MARINA DENIES ISSUING CPC AMENDMENT TO MT PRINCESS EMPRESS

MARINA Spokesperson and Legal Service Director Atty. Sharon Aledo, and Planning and Policy Service Director Luisito Delos Santos face the media during the press conference on MT Princess Empress issue.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has denied issuing an amendment to the certificate of public convenience (CPC) of the owner of MT Princess Empress, a vessel that recently sank off Oriental Mindoro and caused an oil spill.

In a press conference on 20 March 2023, MARINA reiterated that the tanker had no permit to operate and that it did not issue an amendment to its CPC to include the sunken vessel in its fleet.

According to MARINA-National Capital Region (NCR) Director Marc Anthony Pascua, "We did not issue a CPC amendment. At the same time, I never signed any amended CPC for that matter."

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MARINA, UP-OU TO ELEVATE DELIVERY OF MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING THROUGH OPEN, DISTANCE LEARNING

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia and OIC Executive Director of the STCW Office Samuel L. Batalla, forged a Memorandum of Understanding for institutional partnership with the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) represented by Dr. Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria, UPOU Chancellor and Dr. Joane V. Serrano, UPOU Dean for Faculty of Management and Development Studies on 02 March 2023

The MOU aims to conduct joint academic activities including webinars and other training; collaborative

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MARINA PARTNERS WITH UPOU TO ELEVATE DELIVERY OF MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING THROUGH OPEN, DISTANCE LEARNING

MARINA, COMELEC TEAM UP TO ESTABLISH REGISTRATION CENTERS FOR OVERSEAS VOTERS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) on 02 March 2022 for the establishment of several Registration Centers for Overseas Voters in preparations for the May 2025 national and local elections.

The initiative guarantees the continuous registration of qualified overseas Filipino voters from 09 December 2022 until 30 September 2024. With this partnership, the two organizations target to ensure that every eligible Filipino voter can exercise their right to suffrage.

In a statement, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette V. Dinopol expressed her confidence in the collaboration, saying, “Consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind, the MARINA remains a strong partner of Comelec in promoting the continuing registration for qualified overseas Filipino seafarers through the Comelec-MARINA Registration Centers for Overseas Voters.”

“We definitely have one aim or hope in mind — that is, they [overseas voters] will be able to exercise their right to suffrage come the 2025 National and Local Elections wherever they may be or whatever seas their ships may sail, their votes will be counted,” she furthered.

The Registration Centers are expected to operate from the signing of the agreement until 30 September 2024, from Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. By establishing these registration centers, MARINA and COMELEC aim to ensure that every Filipino, regardless of their location, can participate in the upcoming elections.



Officials of the Commission on Election (COMELEC) and MARINA Deputy Administrator Dinopol show their signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the establishment of Overseas Voters Center.

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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.

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Pascua also revealed that RDC Reield Marine Service, which owns MT Princess Empress, only had a “screened application” for the amendment of its CPC. Meanwhile, MARINA Legal Service Director Sharon Aledo confirmed that the vessel owner was still lacking documents in its application to amend its CPC.

Aledo also reported that MARINA issued a suspension order against RDC Reield Marine Service last week, which also operates other vessels.

“MARINA has already issued a directive for the shipowner of MT Princess Empress considering they still have other vessels. They have already been suspended. So they are no longer operating,” she said.

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is currently investigating the issuance of the questionable CPC. MARINA, an agency under the DOTr, is mandated to oversee the promotion and development of the maritime industry and to provide effective regulation of shipping enterprises.

The agency has also approved the release of P33 million from the Oil Pollution and Management Fund administered by MARINA for the clean-up and containment of the oil spill.

Authorities are still working to recover the sunken tanker and contain the oil spill, which has affected local communities and the area’s marine biodiversity. MARINA continues to coordinate with concerned agencies to ensure the prompt resolution of the incident.

DAP SELECTS MARINA AS GQMP BENEFICIARY

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was selected as one of the beneficiaries of this year’s Government Management Quality Program (GQMP) of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) on 21 February 2023.

The GQMP was created to promote quality improvement in the public sector and ensures wider adoption of the Quality Management System (QMS) across the Philippine government.



“We pledge to give our time, and effort to effectively establish, and harmonize a QMS certifiable to ISO 9001:2015 standard, strengthen our risk management capability, and improve our services to contribute to raising the nation’s productivity, providing the Filipinos with a Maginhawa, Matatag at Panatag na Buhay,” the Pledge of Commitment stated.

Under the program, the MARINA will be given eight (8) to ten (10) months for 2023 technical assistance by the DAP, as well as capacity-building intervention on the expansion of the Agency’s QMS to be certified under ISO 9001:2015 standard.

The said expansion will pave way for the Agency’s ISO 9001:2015 Certification to continuously lead in the Philippine maritime industry and to enhance internal systems, processes, and procedures to efficiently provide government services to the public.

MARINA, UP-OU TO ELEVATE DELIVERY OF MARITIME EDUCATION... from page 1

research; consultancy and other technical services; and resource and information sharing. Further, the MOU aims to elevate the delivery of maritime education and training through open and distance learning.

In a statement, Administrator Fabia said “The MARINA and UPOU both recognize the significant

contribution of the maritime industry, especially our seafarers, in nation-building.”

He also lauded UPOU’s commitment to being “The University of the Future” which reflects the institution’s commitment to excellence and innovation.

MARINA SETS NEW SCHED FOR JORDAN-PAROLA TRIPS



People alighting from a passenger vessel in Iloilo City.

To ensure the orderly queuing of passengers, the MARINA Region 6 issued a new schedule of trips for sea vessels plying from Jordan wharf, Guimaras to

Parola wharf in Iloilo City, and vice versa.

Regional Director Jeffrey A. Bangsa issued an order on 21 February 2023 addressed to sea vessel operators such as Jordan Motor Banca Cooperative (JMBC), Buenavista and Jordan Ferry, Inc. (BJFI), Navimar Shipping Services, and Atlantis Yohan Express Corp.

“This is on the current operations of operators plying the route Parola wharf to Jordan wharf, Guimaras, and vice versa; to ensure orderly queuing of passengers, this office prescribes that the above-mentioned operators shall adhere to their Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) authorized schedule of trips,” reads the order.

MARINA JOINS NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) joined the celebration of National Women's Month this March, with various activities aimed at promoting gender equality and women empowerment. MARINA regional offices across the country also participated in the celebration.

To highlight the importance of women's contribution to the maritime industry, MARINA conducted a webinar series featuring successful female leaders in the industry. The webinars focused on topics such as women's leadership, gender

equality, and the challenges faced by women in the maritime sector.

MARINA regional offices also organized their own activities in celebration of National Women's Month.

The celebration of National Women's Month is in line with Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women, which aims to promote and protect the rights of women and establish equal opportunities for them in all spheres of society, including the workplace.



Recognizing the mutual benefits to be gained from the development of closer collaboration in the field of maritime transport, the Philippines and the Netherlands held the 22nd Joint Committee on Maritime Affairs (JCMA) Meeting on 15 March 2023 at Diamond Hotel Manila.

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Atty.

Hernani N. Fabia led the Philippine delegation while Mr. Paul van Gorp, from the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (MinlenW), headed the Dutch delegation. The Netherlands Ambassador to the Philippines, Her Excellency Marielle Geraedts and Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary for Maritime Elmer Francisco

Sarmiento also took part in the meeting.

In his opening statement, Administrator Fabia welcomed the Netherlands Delegation as this JCMA meeting marked the first time that both countries have it conducted face-to-face since 2019.

“The active efforts of both parties throughout the years in

addressing issues in the maritime industry and mapping out action plans to mitigate the effects of potential challenges is indeed commendable. As nations emerge and recover from the debilitating effects of the pandemic, so must we also push forward with our strategic initiatives to uphold the sustainability of the maritime industry and improve the competencies of our seafarers,” Administrator Fabia emphasized.

As the head of the Philippine Delegation, Administrator Fabia prompted the discussion of the actions taken to strengthen the country’s implementation of the requirements of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, as well as the efforts to update the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

For his part, Mr. van Gorp said in his opening remarks that he is very aware of the importance of the shipping sector in the Netherlands and the need for the close cooperation with other countries, particularly the bilateral relationship between the Philippines which is highly valued throughout the maritime sector in their country.

“We assure that the mutual understanding and cooperation between the two administrations will be instrumental. We very much value the JCMA meeting taking place for the 22nd time,



Heads of Philippines and Dutch delegation sign an agreement, forging stronger ties in maritime collaboration.

which is proving to serve as a useful platform to establish where we stand, to cherish the progress achieved and to identify gaps that still have to be bridged. Doing these all in spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between our governments,” Mr. van Gorp pointed out.

Agenda items in the 22nd JCMA meeting include Maritime Mental Health and Well-Being; Mutual Voting for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council Membership; Comprehensive Review of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended; State of play on EU recognition and continued inclusion in the IMO Whitelist; Development of Maritime Education in the Philippines; Palompon Institute of Technology (PIT) updates; Climate Policies in IMO, particularly the IMO’s GHG Strategy and Mid-Term Measures,

and Pathways for Decarbonization of the Maritime Transport Sector; and MIDP.

The JCMA fostered productive discussions between the Philippines and the Netherlands, solidifying the ties between the two by sharing ideas, lessons, experiences, and new knowledge. With this, both parties likewise agreed to foster an open line of communication that has been maintained throughout the years, continuing to explore new and more beneficial avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

The JCMA with the Netherlands is the Philippines’ longest-running bilateral conference with any partner country. This is a testament to the strong and enduring relationship between the two countries, as they work together to promote maritime cooperation and mutual understanding.

MARINA 10 BREAKS GROUND ON FOUR-STORY BUILDING IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

The MARINA Regional Office 10 has officially started the construction of a four-story building in the city of El Salvador, Misamis Oriental with a groundbreaking ceremony held on 27 March 2023.

According to MARINA Regional Director Annabell Lagas, the building will provide more job opportunities for the locals of El Salvador, and

strengthen MARINA’s public service for Filipinos.

The project aims to improve MARINA’s services in the region by establishing a new facility equipped with modern technologies and infrastructure; accommodating various services related to maritime operations and promoting safety in the sea transportation industry.

MARINA 10 BREAKS GROUND ON FOUR-STORY BUILDING...



MARINA 10 Regional Director Annabell Lagas, and other key stakeholders hold the blueprint of the new office building in Misamis Oriental.

The MARINA Regional Office 10 expressed its gratitude to the local government of El Salvador for their continuous support and cooperation in the project's realization. The office also emphasized the importance of the new facility in serving the needs of the public and contributing to the growth of the country's maritime sector.

PALAWAN OFFICIALS SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINA PUERTO PRINCESA CITY

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Palawan adopted two resolutions in support of the establishment of a Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Regional Office in Puerto Princesa City. The resolutions were proposed by Board Member Winston Arzaga, who was contacted by MARINA Deputy Administrator Sonia Malaluan regarding House Bill 734, which seeks to establish the regional office and appropriate funds for it.

In his privilege speech, Arzaga highlighted the benefits of having a MARINA regional office in the city, citing the ease of processing documents for pump boat operators. Currently, applications still have to be sent to Batangas for processing and final issuance, which causes burden and additional expenses for constituents. The establishment of a regional office in Puerto Princesa City will save time, money, and effort for the constituents, he said.

Arzaga proposed two resolutions: one supporting House Bill 734 and another requesting Reps. Jose Alvarez, Edward Hagedorn, and Edgardo Salvame to work closely with Rep. Sandro Gonzales

for the early passage of the bill.

Aside from the establishment of a regional office, MARINA is also considering the possibility of conducting a regular mobile registration of bancas in El Nido, Coron, and San Vicente, where many boat operators are situated. This move will put an end to the challenges faced by pump boat operators in going to Puerto Princesa and spending a significant amount of money, according to Arzaga.

The support of Palawan officials for the establishment of the MARINA regional office in Puerto Princesa City will bring convenience to pump boat operators and provide more accessible services to the constituents.



MARINA PRESS STATEMENT ON BASILAN FERRY INCIDENT

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) expresses its deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of those affected by the recent maritime incident involving MV "Lady Mary Joy 3" in Basilan on 29 March 2023.

The MARINA has been coordinating with various agencies for information gathering,

and Search and Rescue (SAR) operations being conducted by the PCG, PN, PNP, MG MDRMO, CDRMO, PDRMO, BFP Rescue Groups, among others.

We have also directed the Aleson Shipping Lines Inc. to attend, and extend assistance to the victims of the fire, help the survivors who needed medical

MARINA PRESS STATEMENT ON BASILAN FERRY...

attention, financial and whatever assistance to families of those who lost their loved ones.

In line with the Agency's commitment to ensure the safety and security of all maritime activities, we have also directed the conduct of surveys on all vessels operated by Aleson Shipping Lines, as well as intensified compliance monitoring

for all vessels in the country. Likewise, pursuant to the directive of MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia under Special Order No. 364-23, our Enforcement Service (ES) has commenced the marine safety investigation of MV "Lady Mary Joy 3" and to conduct compliance monitoring of vessels to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

MARINA, BFAR SIGN AGREEMENT FOR MRO 7 EXTENSION OFFICE IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

The MARINA Regional Office VII (MRO7), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources VII (BFAR7) signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) on the free usage of MRO 7 extension office in BFAR building situated at Negros Oriental on 21 March 2023.

The signing made between MRO7 Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio Ph.D. and BFAR7 Regional Director Allan L. Poquita Ph.D. entails the establishment of Dumaguete Extension Office inside the BFAR Building in Canday-ong, Dumaguete City.

The said MOA aims to enhance cooperation between two regional offices with regard to fishing vessel compliance processes and documentation, as well as to bring government services closer to the stakeholders of Negros Oriental.



Officials of Regional Offices of MARINA, and BFAR in Negros Oriental sign a memorandum of agreement on the free usage of MARINA extension office in BFAR building.

MARINA HOLDS THIS YEAR'S FIRST OATH-TAKING CEREMONY FOR MARINE DECK AND ENGINEER OFFICERS



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through the STCW-Examination and Assessment Division (EAD) organized this year's first oath-taking ceremony for Marine Deck and Engineer Officers on 23 March 2023, in Intramuros, Manila.

Marking the official start of their commitment to their duties, responsibilities, and obligations as merchant marine officers, a total of 76 marine deck and engineer officers were sworn into their official ranks. For the Deck Department, there were 39 oath takers comprising 10 Master Mariners, one (1) Chief Mate, and 28 Officers-In-Charge of a Navigational Watch (OIC-NW). As for the Engine Department, 37 maritime engineer officers consisting of seven (7) Chief Engineer Officers, two (2) Second Engineer Officers, and 28 Officers-In-Charge of an Engineering Watch (OIC-EW) also took their oath.

MARINA HOLDS THIS YEAR'S FIRST OATH-TAKING CEREMONY...

During the ceremony, the officers swore for professional ethics and commitment, pledging to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and environmental stewardship in their roles as Marine Deck and Engineer Officers.

MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nanette Villamor-Dinopol meanwhile emphasized that holding a Certificate of Competency (COC) comes with greater responsibility – that it is not only about ranks and glamour.

“As a Merchant Marine Officer, it is your duty to strive to elevate, maintain and contribute to the honor and dignity of your profession. You are bound to promote and ensure the safety of life and

property at sea, protect the marine environment, and prevent marine pollution and accident at sea,” Engr. Dinopol pointed out.

This quarterly oath-taking ceremony is the Administration's way of acknowledging and recognizing the beginning of a marine officer's commitment to his or her obligations as an officer of the safety of life at sea and the marine environment.

The oath-taking was administered by Capt. Danilo G. Arevalo, Board of Marine Deck Officers (BOMDO) Chairman and Chief Engr. Reynaldo S. Rabino, Board of Marine Engineer Officers (BOMEEO) Chairman.

MARINA CALLS ON DOMESTIC SHIPPING LINES TO ALLOCATE SPACE AND PROVIDE DISCOUNTS FOR AGRI PRODUCTS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued an advisory reminding all domestic shipping lines to allocate space on their vessels for agricultural and food products and provide a discount of no less than 40% of their published shipping rates for such cargoes.

The advisory, called MARINA Advisory No. 2023-07, was issued on 09 March 2023, and it reinforces the implementation of MARINA Advisory No. 2020-54, which was released in July 2020. The MARINA Advisory aims to ensure the efficient flow of agricultural products nationwide to meet the demands under the new normal trend.

Under MARINA Advisory No. 2020-54, all domestic shipping lines must allocate no less than 12% of a vessel's cargo capacity per voyage exclusively for agricultural and food products. Cargoes covered under the advisory are agricultural and food products shipped in whatever manner or form, such as, but not limited to, roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) cargoes and conventional cargoes, whether loose or bulk.

The aim of the advisory is to support the government's policy, especially during the coronavirus disease pandemic, “to ensure food availability and affordability, boost domestic agricultural production and food processing; and ensure that their movements shall remain unhampered.”

The MARINA Advisory also calls on shipping lines to comply with the requirement at the port where the 12% space allocation was utilized, irrespective of whether it is the port of origin or the subsequent port of call. The 40% rate discount also applies to this rule.

Shipping lines are not precluded from giving more than the 40% discount as per DO 2020-007.

The 12% allocated cargo space will be granted on a “first come, first served” basis, but shipowners/operators may offer the cargo space allocation to shippers of other types of cargoes if the 12% minimum space is not filled within 12 hours before a particular voyage starts.



The MARINA Management, Financial and Administrative Service (MFAS) thru its Human Resources Management and Development Division (HRMDD) in partnership with the Planning and Policy Service (PPS), held a re-orientation workshop on the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) on 14 March 2023.



The MARINA, through its Enforcement Service (ES) took part in the EU-CRIMARIO II Project Indian Ocean Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) Conference on 20-21 March 2023 in Makati City.

The said conference targets to enhance cooperation, and information sharing relating to maritime security, and safety within the Philippine waters, as well as the Southeast Asia region.



Ambassador Teodoro L. Loocin, Jr. lodged the candidature of the Philippines to the IMO Council under Category C for the 2024-2025 biennium at elections to be held during the 33rd Session of the IMO Assembly on 26 November - 6 December 2023 in London.