



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MESSAGE

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Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority

Commencement Exercises

VMA Global College and Training Centers, Inc.

14 June 2024, Bacolod City

To Atty. Juan Orola, Jr. Chairperson of the Board, Dr. Elizabeth O. Salabas, President, Members of the Board of Trustees of the VMA Global College & Training Centers, esteemed faculty, proud parents, the distinguished graduates, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Today, we stand on the brink of a new horizon, celebrating the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and dedication. It is my honor and privilege to address you on this momentous occasion, your commencement day. As maritime graduates, you are about to embark on a journey that will take you across the world's oceans, and today marks the beginning of that incredible adventure.



Firstly, let us take a moment to acknowledge the unwavering support of your families, friends, and mentors. Without their encouragement, sacrifices, and belief in your potential, reaching this milestone would not have been possible. They have stood by you through the late-night study sessions, the rigorous training, and the moments of doubt, always reminding you of the bright future that lies ahead.

Your education at VMA Global College and Training Center has equipped you with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to navigate the complex and ever-evolving maritime industry. You have been trained to excel in a field that is the lifeblood of global trade, a sector that connects nations and cultures, and sustains economies worldwide. The sea, with its vastness and mystery, will soon become your workplace, your challenge, and your home.

As you set sail into your professional careers, remember that the sea, much like life, is unpredictable. There will be calm days and stormy nights, smooth sailings, and rough waters. Your education has prepared you for these realities, but it is your character, resilience, and adaptability that will truly determine your success. The sea demands respect and understanding, and so does the profession you have



chosen. Embrace every challenge with a spirit of curiosity and a commitment to excellence.

In the maritime industry, teamwork and leadership are not just important—they are essential. Onboard a vessel, every crew member relies on each other to ensure the safety and efficiency of operations. You have learned the importance of collaboration, trust, and effective communication. These skills will serve you well, not only in your professional life but in every aspect of your journey. Be the leader who inspires confidence and the team player who earns respect.

Innovation and technology are transforming the maritime landscape at an unprecedented pace. From advancements in navigation systems to the development of sustainable shipping practices, the future of maritime is being shaped by those who dare to think differently. As graduates, you are the future innovators, the visionaries who will drive this industry forward. Stay curious, keep learning, and never shy away from embracing new technologies and methodologies. The world needs your fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.



As you embark on your maritime careers, remember the importance of environmental stewardship. The oceans are our planet's lifeblood, providing sustenance, climate regulation, and beauty beyond measure. However, they are also vulnerable to pollution, overfishing, and climate change. As maritime professionals, you have a responsibility to protect and preserve this precious resource. Advocate for sustainable practices, minimize your environmental footprint, and be champions of marine conservation. Your actions can make a significant difference in safeguarding the oceans for future generations. We, in MARINA are always proud of the contribution of Filipino seafarers in the global arena. SEAFARERS truly move the world!

Your journey through VMA Global College has also instilled in you a sense of community and service. The maritime industry is a global community, bound by shared experiences and a common purpose. Whether you find yourselves in the ports of Asia, the harbors of Europe, or the coastlines of the Americas, you will encounter diverse cultures and people. Embrace these opportunities to build connections, foster mutual understanding, and contribute positively to the communities you touch. The world is vast,

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but it is also interconnected, and your role as maritime professionals places you at the heart of this global network.

Graduates, as you move forward, carry with you the pride of your accomplishments and the lessons learned during your time at VMA Global College. But always strive to learn more, learn everyday, wherever you are. The future may be uncertain, but it is also filled with endless possibilities. Stay true to your values, uphold the highest standards of professionalism, and never stop striving for excellence. The sea may be vast, but your potential is even greater.

In closing, I leave you with the words of a great seafarer, Christopher Columbus, who said, "You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." Today, you are ready to lose sight of the shore and embark on your own extraordinary voyage. May you navigate through life with wisdom, courage, and an unwavering sense of purpose.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! The world is yours to explore. Safe travels and fair winds. Mabuhay ang Marinong Pilipino.