

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

126TH PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN ATHENS, GREECE

09 JUNE 2024

TO HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR GIOVANNI E. PALEC, ASSISTANT SECRETARY JEROME PAMPOLINA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARIO ZINAMPAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, LABOR ATTACHE MS CYNTHIA CRUZ, THE OVER ALL CHAIRMAN, MS CHONA PAMINTUAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE 126TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION HERE IN ATHENS, PHIL EMBASSY OFFICIALS, MY COLLEAGUE IN MARINA, DIRECTOR RAMON HERNANDEZ, MGA KABABAYAN, MAGANDANG UMAGA PO SA LAHAT.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR EMBASSY HERE IN ATHENS AS WELL AS THE ACCREDITED PARTNERS FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY FOR THIS VERY RARE OPPORTUNITY, I AM TRULY HONORED AND GRATEFUL. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR ORGANIZING AND JOINING THIS MEANINGFUL 126TH PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOVE OF OUR COUNTRY.

TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF OUR ANCESTORS IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. TO UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE, WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER AND HONOR THE PAST. EACH STEP WE TAKE TOWARDS PROGRESS IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION LAID BY THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US. BUT INDEPENDENCE DAY IS NOT JUST A COMMEMORATION OF THE PAST , IT IS A CELEBRATION OF OUR COLLECTIVE IDENTITY AND SHARED ASPIRATIONS. IT IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FILIPINO, BOTH IN OUR HOMELAND AND ABROAD.

DO WE HAVE SEAFARERS IN THE CROWD? I AM SURE THERE MAY BE SISTERS, CHILDREN OF SEAFARERS, RELATIVES OR SEAFARER-FRIENDS. OUR SEAFARERS AND OVERSEAS WORKERS ARE OUR MODERN DAY HEROES... THE MARINA AS THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS ONBOARD INTERNATIONAL SHIPS AND WORKING HARD TO OPEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT. AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARINA, I CAN ASSURE ALL FILIPINO SEAFARERS THAT YOUR INTEREST IS PRIMORDIAL TO OUR AGENCY.

THE PHILIPPINES HAS MADE STRIDES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE WITH THE CONTINUING RECOGNITION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE PHILIPPINES AND THE SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT EVALUATION RESULTING TO THE PHILIPPINES INCLUSION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION'S WHITELIST. BEING IN THE WHITE LIST SIGNIFIES THAT THE SEAFARERS TRAINED AND CERTIFIED BY THE PHILIPPINES THRU THE MARINA MEET THE RIGOROUS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND PROCESSES, A

TESTAMENT TO THE HIGH STANDARDS IN MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION. PROCESSES IN MARINA ARE NOW ONLINE, SEAFARERS NEED NOT GO TO MARINA TO PROCESS DOCUMENTS, INSTEAD THEY CAN SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

OUR FILIPINO SEAFARERS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED GLOBALLY AS KEY WORKERS AND WE HEAR NOTHING BUT HIGH REGARDS FOR THEM FROM SHIPOWNERS AND OTHER MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS. THEY NAVIGATE THE VAST OCEANS FACING CHALLENGES AND DANGERS IN ENSURING THAT GLOBAL TRADE CONTINUES SMOOTHLY. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INVALUABLE AND THEIR WORK AND EFFORTS BRING HONOR AND PRIDE TO OUR NATION.

AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF MARINA, I EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU HERE IN ATHENS. YOUR EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES AS OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS ARE AN INSPIRATION TO MANY. YOUR SUCCESS AND RESILIENCE ARE PROOF OF THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE, THE SAME DETERMINATION SHOWN BY OUR FOREFATHERS IN ACHIEVING FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR COUNTRY THAT WE ENJOY TODAY. SALUDO PO KAMI SA INYONG LAHAT. DESPITE BEING AWAY FROM HOME, YOU HAVE MANAGED AND CREATE A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY HERE IN ATHENS, SHOWCASING THE BEST OF FILIPINO CULTURES AND VALUES.

WHILE WE CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE, LET US CONTINUE TO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF UNITY AND COOPERATION, UPHOLDING THE VALUES OF INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE IN WHATEVER PROFESSION OR WORK THAT WE ARE IN.

FOR THIS YEAR'S THEME: KALAYAAN, KINABUKASAN AND KASAYSAYAN - MARINA IS DOING ITS PART TO ENSURE THAT OUR SEAFARERS ARE FREE TO GO ON BOARD ANY TYPE OF SHIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, ENSURING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND MAKING HISTORY IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME ARENA, AS THE BEST AND NUMBER ONE SEAFARERS IN THE WORLD.

**MABUHAY ANG BAGONG PILPINAS, MABUHAY ANG MARINONG PILIPINO.
MARAMING SALAMAT PO AT ISANG MALIGAYANG PAGDIRIWANG ANG ARAW NG KALAYAAN.**