

ADMINISTRATOR SONIA B. MALALUAN

Guest Speaker/Inducting Officer

Philippine Ship Agents Association (PSSA)

OKADA, Manila

04 December 2024 | 1900H

To Mr. Joey Ilagan, Outgoing President,
Mr. Ric Jamandre, the Incoming President,
Other officers and members of the Philippine Ship Agents Association,
distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and friends in the maritime
industry,

I'm deeply honored to speak before you tonight as we come together for a very special occasion—the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Philippine Ship Agents Association (PSSA), the Induction of Officers and Board of Directors, and of course, PSSA's Christmas Party—what a remarkable combination of milestones and festivities to share tonight. CONGRATULATIONS TO PSAA FOR THIS MILESTONE YEAR.

Having reached fifty years as an organization is, in itself, an incredible feat. It translates to countless hours of dedication, collective efforts, and the unwavering commitment of those who have come before you. It is a huge task to even measure the impact of your hard work, but this celebration is a testament to PSSA's successful endeavor in the past five decades.

The success we celebrate tonight is a clear manifestation of the passion and vision of the leaders who laid the foundation, and of all of you who have kept your association vibrant and thriving. As Warren Buffet puts it, ***“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”***

This evening also marks a significant turning point as we welcome a new slate of officers and board of directors to guide you into the next chapter of PSSA's journey. As we induct them into their new capacity, I encourage

everyone to give them the support and trust they need to continue the work with the same spirit of excellence that has always been at core of the Philippine maritime industry.

To the incoming officers and board of directors, a big congratulations to all of you! May you continue to uphold the values that have brought you in this significant milestone, as you carry this exciting and important responsibility. MARINA recognizes the important role that you play representing foreign shipowners whose vessels call on Philippine ports. You make the Philippine trade and economy alive, as we know that we have very few Philippine flagged ships and they don't even call on Philippine ports.... So, provide the necessary services to make sure that they call in the Philippines to be efficient and that their requirements are met... critical link to government agencies as well as with local suppliers and service providers.

I know your group is supporting the enactment into law House Bill No. 4933 An Act Enhancing the Competitiveness of Philippine Maritime Trade. We support the bill as it seeks to strengthen the oversight over local charges imposed by international shipping lines and promote efficient, competitive and reliable logistics services, which we also aim to achieve in MARINA. I can assure you of MARINA's commitment to really facilitate processing of documents and promote ease of doing business.

Allow me to share the latest developments in the maritime industry that I think will be of interest to PSAA and your members. RA 11659 provides for the revised public act that allows 100% foreign ownership of ships to engage in domestic shipping. And we are also considering a policy to allow operational flexibility that will allow seamless operation from domestic to overseas operation, that may present possible business opportunity for your group.

In the next Congress, we will also pursue the enactment of Ship Registry Bill that will encourage more ships registration under the Philippine flag.

We have also implemented the MARINA Blockchain Enabled Certification System or MARINA BEST. Though we are still sorting some of the issues in

the system, we are targeting its full effective implementation by July 2025. This allow online application, online payment and e-certificates. It has streamlined the process and provided safety nets to eliminate discretion in all levels of the process, thus promoting integrity of MARINA's issuances.

Global shipping is now facing many challenges brought about by emerging technologies, be it digitalization or decarbonization, the Philippine maritime industry will be challenged as well. In this light, I wish to collaborate with your group, as one of my strategies and focus is to forge stronger partnership with all stakeholders of the maritime industry, with an end goal of reduction of transport and logistics cost, hopefully reduce the cost of commodities.

One area that we seek your assistance and push is the accession of the Philippines to the facilitation convention and the establishment of the maritime single window to encourage more ships to call on Philippine ports.

I don't want to take much of your time on policy issues, rest assured that we recognize the need, the issues and challenges that your association faces and we are committed to provide assistance and support within the mandates of the MARINA.

Again congratulations, on your golden anniversary and all the best to the new set of officers under the leadership of President Ric Jamandre.

And finally, as we gather here tonight, we not only honor our past and our future, but we also take the time to relish the present moment. The Christmas season reminds us of the power of families and communities, kindness, and giving and most specially love—values that we, as Filipinos, cherish throughout the year.

So let's enjoy this evening together, filled with joy, good company, and Christmas spirit. May this season bring joy and peace to everyone, and may our partnership in the maritime industry continues to grow stronger in the year ahead.

Merry Christmas, and congratulations again to all of you!
Thank you and mabuhay!