

**SONIA B. MALALUAN**

**MARINA Administrator**

**Message**

**BLESSING CEREMONY**

**SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF MARITIME STUDIES- Bohol**

**Baclayon, Bohol**

**01 December 2024**

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TO ENGR. JEORGE BLASQUEZ AND MRS. NORMA BLASQUEZ,  
DR. GLENN BLASQUEZ OF SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF MARITIME  
STUDIES,  
HONORABLE GOVERNOR ARIS AUMENTADO,  
HONORABLE MAYOR DONDON BUATES,  
HONORABLE CONGRESSWOMAN VANVAN AUMENTADO  
REPRESENTED BY ATTY. MELITA ADAME,  
THE MEN AND WOMEN OF SIMS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF SIMS AND THANK  
YOU FOR THIS MILESTONE. THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY  
OR MARINA WELCOMES ANY EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION AND  
UPGRADING OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE  
COUNTRY.

THERE ARE 85 ACCREDITED MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS  
NATIONWIDE PROVIDING THE NECESSARY AND MANDATORY  
TRAININGS FOR SEAFARERS, FOR THEM TO QUALIFY TO WORK  
ONBOARD OVERSEAS SHIPS AND SIMS CONTINUES TO BE THE  
FIRST AND ONLY MARITIME TRAINING CENTER IN BOHOL. TODAY,  
IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE TO WITNESS THIS

COMMENDABLE PROJECT, STAYING TRUE TO YOUR MISSION OF PROVIDING MARITIME TRAINING AND RE-TRAINING SERVICES THAT PROMOTE SAFETY AND SECURITY AWARENESS, PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY AMONG SEAFARERS, UPHOLDING GLOBAL STANDARDS.

ON BEHALF OF THE MARINA, I COMMEND SIMS FOR YOUR VISION OF BECOMING THE PREMIER PROVIDER OF QUALITY AND WORLD-CLASS MARITIME TRAINING EXCEEDING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS EMPLOYING THE LATEST METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN TRAINING. YOUR TRAINING INDEED ADDS VALUE TO THE SEAFARERS. WITH SIMS-BOHOL, SEAFARERS FROM BOHOL WILL NOT NEED TO GO TO MANILA OR CEBU FOR THE REQUIRED TRAINING /UPGRADING TRAINING, THUS YOU CAN SAVE ON AIRFARE, HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND OTHERS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SPEND MORE QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES.

SEAFARING IS THE ONLY PROFESSION WHERE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ARE DEVELOPED AND STRICTLY IMPLEMENTED THRU THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATIONS AND MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS OF IMO'S MEMBER STATES. THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUES TO BE THE LEADING PROVIDER OF QUALIFIED, COMPETENT AND CERTIFICATED SEAFARERS IN ACCORDANCE TO SAID STANDARDS. IN 2023, MORE THAN 578 THOUSAND SEAFARERS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED OVERSEAS, SUPPLYING, MORE THAN 25% OF THE WORLD REQUIREMENTS WITH AN ANNUAL AVERAGE DOLLAR REMITTANCES OF ABOUT 6.5 BILLION US DOLLARS.

AS GLOBAL SHIPPING FACES THE CHALLENGES OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS AUTOMATION, DIGITALIZATION AND DECARBONIZATION, UPSKILLING AND RE-SKILLING OF SEAFARERS BECAME IMPERATIVE. TRANSITIONING TO GREEN SHIPPING, THE MARINA IS COMMITTED TO ENSURE MARITIME JUST TRANSITION FOR OUR SEAFARERS, WHERE THEIR SAFETY AND WELL BEING ARE ADDRESSED.

WITH ALL THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION OF SHIPPING, WE, IN MARINA ARE HOPEFUL THAT SIMS SHALL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE STRONG PARTNERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING OUR COMMON GOAL OF SUSTAINING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE FILIPINO SEAFARERS. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT PARTNERSHIP ARE NOT DEPENDENT ONLY ON A MERE COMMON GOAL BUT ON A SHARED DESIRE AND PASSION, BOTH OF WHICH WE DEFINITELY SHARE WITH SIMS.

WHILE THE WORLD SHIPPING IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE AUTOMATED, SHIFTING TO GREEN TECHNOLOGIES, AND GLOBAL STANDARDS UNDERGOING COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS, THE PHILIPPINES, THRU THE MARINA AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL PRIVATE MARITIME INSTITUTIONS SHOULD TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT REPUBLIC ACT NO 12021 OR THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS. I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOAL.

LASTLY, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE OPENING OF THE TRAINING FACILITIES HERE IN BOHOL, MORE AND MORE BOHOLANOS WILL BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING CAREERS AT SEA AND BECOME THE COUNTRY'S SAILING AMBASSADORS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL ECONOMY AND BRING MORE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL.

THANK YOU AND AGAIN, MAGANDANG UMAGA SA ATING LAHAT. MABUHAY ANG SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF MARITIME STUDIES-BOHOL. MABUHAY AND MARINONG PILIPINO.