

1st MARINA FLAG CEREMONY FOR CY 2025

MESSAGE

06 January 2025, 8:00 AM – 8:35 AM
MARINA Central Office, Port Area, Manila

SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator
Maritime Industry Authority

[OPENING SPIEL: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

TO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR OPERATIONS NANNETTE VILLAMOR-DINOPOL;
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR PLANNING NENITA ATIENZA;
STCWO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAMUEL BATALLA AND
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAPT. VICENTE NAVARRO;
TO ALL THE DIRECTORS / OICs OF THE MARINA CENTRAL AND
REGIONAL OFFICES;
HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD MORNING TO ALL.

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES DURING THE PAST HOLIDAY SEASON. I CAN SAY THAT THE YEAR 2024 HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR MARINA AND I THANK EVERYONE, FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN MAKING OUR PRESENCE FELT NOT ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME INDUSTRY BUT EVEN IN THE GLOBAL STAGE.

SINCE I ASSUMED THE POSITION MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, WE HAVE BEEN PERFORMING OUR FUNCTIONS IN LINE WITH OUR CAMPAIGN ENTITLED “**CHARTING A CLEAN COURSE, SAFELY**”

SAILING TOGETHER”, AND WE ARE ALSO BEING GUIDED BY THE **10-POINT AGENDA, OR PRIORITIES FROM THE MIDPS 2028** THAT WE SET IN ORDER TO PROMOTE HARMONY AND CONSISTENCY IN CAPITALIZING ALL EFFORTS AND RESOURCES TOWARDS THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARITIME SECTOR. SO, I SINCERELY AND HIGHLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE SUCCESS STORIES THIS YEAR.

AS WE START 2025, AGAIN I HUMBLLY APPEAL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THIS LEADERSHIP. LET US ALL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT ALL OF US IN THE TOP MANAGEMENT ROSE FROM THE RANKS IN MARINA, UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER BETTER, AND UNDERSTANDING THE INDUSTRY DEEPER! AGAIN, I ALSO THANK OUR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR AND OICS, WE CANNOT ACHIEVE MUCH WITHOUT YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT.

THIS EARLY, WE KNOW THAT 2025 WILL BE MORE CHALLENGING THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, PARTICULARLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 12021 OR THE MAGNACARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS. KUDOS TO OUR LAWYERS AND TWG FOR THE CRAFTING OF THE IRR, FOR YOUR RELENTLESS WORKS EVEN DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

TO OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES, LET US DRAW STRENGTH AND RENEWED VIGOR FROM WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2024.

OF COURSE, IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT IN LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER OUR PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED MIDP 2028 TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 55 WAS ISSUED TO ADOPT THE **MARITIME INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MIDP) 2028**. AFTER 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, WE, AT THE MARINA CAN FINALLY SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS ONCE AGAIN PRIORITIZING THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF THE MIDP. HOWEVER, EO 55 IS NOTHING, IF THERE IS NO ACTUAL CHANGE IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY THAT COULD BE SEEN NOR FELT BY THE STAKEHOLDERS AND MOST ESPECIALLY OUR COUNTRYMEN. TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE HAVE MORE WORK IN FRONT OF US.

WE ALSO PROVED TO THE WHOLE NATION THAT MARINA CAN ADAPT THE CONTINUOUS EVOLUTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES ESPECIALLY WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE **BLOCKCHAIN-ENABLED AUTOMATED CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (MARINA BEST)**. I COMMEND ALL CONCERNED MARINA PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF MISS AND ALL REGIONAL OFFICES FOR THEIR RELENTLESS EFFORTS TO MAKE THE SYSTEM FUNCTIONAL, REDUCING THE NEED FOR IN-

PERSON VISITS AND MAXIMIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL AGE. OF COURSE, THERE ARE STILL ISSUES THAT ARE BEING ADDRESSED BUT THE FACT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ISSUE MORE THAN 40,000 CERTIFICATES WITH 7,200 USERS IN ITS FIRST SIX MONTHS OF IMPLEMENTATION, SOMETHING THAT WE CAN BE PROUD OF.

WE TARGET TO TRANSITION ALL MARITIME-RELATED DOCUMENTS TO DIGITAL FORMATS BY SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. I ALSO COMMEND THE STCWO, PARTICULARLY THE CERTIFICATION DIVISION FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE WAITING TIME OF SEAFARERS TO GET STCW CERTIFICATES FROM MARINA.

JUST LIKE WHAT I SAID DURING THE FIRST FLAG CEREMONY LAST YEAR, I WILL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT MARINA WILL REMAIN **COMPETENT, DISCIPLINED AND CORRUPT-FREE** UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, AND THE 'MARINA BEST', INCLUDING THE MISMO IS ONE OF THE WAYS TO ATTAIN AND SUSTAIN THIS CULTURE IN OUR AGENCY.

IN ADDITION, SAFETY WILL ALWAYS BE NON-NEGOTIABLE AND IT REMAINS AS OUR TOP PRIORITY. WE HAVE BEEN ENHANCING MARITIME SAFETY THROUGH VARIOUS EFFORTS SUCH AS THE **MARITIME SAFETY CULTURE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CARAVAN**, WHICH WILL RUN UNTIL APRIL 2025. THANK YOU MSS AND ALL MROS. WE SIGNED A TOTAL OF 11 MOAS WITH DIFFERENT LOCAL

GOVERNMENT UNITS NATIONWIDE ON THIS INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON INFORMATION AND TIPS ON PASSENGER SAFETY, PASSENGER RIGHTS AND REDUCTION OF MARINE PLASTIC LITTER.

WE ALSO INTENSIFIED OUR **COMPLIANCE MONITORING OF DOMESTIC SHIPS** TO ENSURE THAT THESE VESSELS ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS. WE ALSO **STRENGTHENED OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS** IN ORDER TO ALIGN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE IN REDUCING MARITIME INCIDENTS / ACCIDENTS.

IN ADDITION, IT IS ALSO WORTHY TO MENTION THAT 2024 IS THE YEAR WHEN THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED TO BE IN THE SO CALLED '**IMO WHITE LIST.**' THIS SERVES AS A TESTAMENT THAT OUR COUNTRY IS NOT ONLY KNOWN AS A MAJOR PROVIDER OF SEAFARERS GLOBALLY BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHARE THE SAME COMMITMENT IN MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION FOR SEAFARERS. WELL DONE STCWO AND THANK YOU FOR THE CONSISTENT HARDWORK AND COMMITMENT.

AS PART OF THE 10pt AGENDA AND TO ADDRESS THE LIMITED RESOURCES AND CAPACITY OF THE ORGANIZATION, HAVE FORGED STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AND GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS THRU THE SIGNING OF DIFFERENT

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) ON VARIOUS AREAS SUCH AS ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS, RECOGNIZING CERTIFICATES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STCW, ADDRESSING KEY CHALLENGES IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY THAT INCLUDES SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, AND FOSTERING COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG OTHERS. THANK YOU DIRECTOR RAMON FOR THE CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP WITH DOST.

ALL OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE ON TOP OF MARINA'S REGULATORY ISSUANCES AND REVENUE GENERATION. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH CNA BONUS, SRI, PEI AND MILESTONE BONUS, TOGETHER WITH THE PREMIUM AND GRATUITY PAY FOR JO AND COS PERSONNEL.

WITH THAT, LET US ALL CELEBRATE THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BLESSINGS. I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO PLEASE, CONTINUE TO BE PRO-ACTIVE. WE HAVE A LOT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THIS YEAR, WHICH INCLUDES OUR **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**. WE WILL AGGRESSIVELY PUSH FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE SHIP REGISTRY BILL AND THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIR DEVELOPMENT BILL IN THE 20th CONGRESS. I WILL NOT ENUMERATE ALL THAT WE INTEND TO DO THIS YEAR, AS THEY WILL BE CASCADED TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU BY YOUR DIRECTORS/OICS. WE WILL CONTINUE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS

ON MARITIME SAFETY, SEAFARERS' CONCERNS, DIGITALIZATION
DECARBONIZATION, AND THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPACITY.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THAT JUST LIKE THE
PAST YEARS, WE WILL NEED THE COOPERATION OF EVERYONE.
TULONG-TULONG PO TAYO RITO SA MARINA. WE VALUE THE
CONTRIBUTION OF ALL EMPLOYEES FROM THE RANK-AND-FILE
TO MANAGERIAL LEVEL. AS WE RECOGNIZE EACH AND
EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTION, THIS LEADERSHIP WILL NOT
TOLERATE ANY BREACH OF INTEGRITY AND ANY INCOMPETENCE
OR NEGLECT OF DUTIES... TIME AND AGAIN, WE REITERATE THAT
WE ARE ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS. PUBLIC SERVICE IS A PUBLIC
TRUST AND SUCH TRUST IN MARINA HAS IMPROVED, BASED ON
THE FEEDBACKS, COMMENTS AND SUPPORT, WE HAVE BEEN
RECEIVING. LET US NOT REST ON OUR LAURELS BUT LET US
CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE BEST PUBLIC SERVICE THE
FILIPINO SEAFARERS AND OUR COUNTRYMEN TRULY DESERVED.

IN CLOSING, I ENJOINED YOU ALL TO ALWAYS BE PART OF THE
TEAM MARINA. TEAMWORK IS KEY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
OUR MISSION, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR VISION AND
GOALS AND IN OVERCOMING CHALLENGES, AS IT IS ALWAYS
TRUE THAT IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH. CHEERS TO A UNITED
AND EVEN STRONGER MARINA IN 2025. LET US MAKE 2025 AN
AMAZINGLY WONDERFUL YEAR FOR EVERYONE.

MULI, MAGANDANG UMAGA SA ATING LAHAT. GOD BLESS US ALL
AND GOD BLESS MARINA.