



# MARINA NEWSLETTER

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## DMW, MARINA wrap up 2nd Legal Review of Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers IRR

PASAY CITY - The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), have joined forces with maritime stakeholders and government agencies, have concluded the legal review of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act No. 12021, or the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers.

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## MARINA receives “Leader in Sustainable Financial Digitalization” Award from GCash

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) expresses its profound gratitude to GCash for recognizing our agency with the “Leader in Sustainable Financial Digitalization” award.

This accolade is a testament to MARINA’s commitment to integrating innovative digital solutions that enhance maritime services while championing sustainability and financial inclusivity.

## ICCFRAIMC Approves Resolutions to Enhance Philippines’ Maritime Compliance

The Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification of/Accession to and Implementation of Maritime Conventions (ICCFRAIMC) has approved key resolutions during its 3rd meeting in Manila.

The following resolutions target to strengthen the country’s maritime sector:



Designation of Agencies as Focal for the Ratification/Accession of the Philippines to Relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Instruments

A resolution designating the focal agencies who will lead the efforts in ratifying/acceding to priority IMO instruments relevant to the Philippines; and

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# MARINA analyzes LCT and tanker stability in maritime industry



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) analyzed the stability, motion, resistance and structure of Land Craft Transport (LCT) vessels and tankers currently being operated in the country during the training course on MAXSURF software at the MARINA Central Office, Manila on 02-06 December 2024.

During the training, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette Villamor-Dinopol stressed that the proper use of technology contributes to improving the operations of ships, as well as enhancing maritime safety of the Philippine maritime industry. She expressed her confidence that the advantages of having MAXSURF software can be capitalized in line with maintaining the global position of the Philippines as one of the leading nations in the shipbuilding and ship repair

sector. Dinopol also recognized the significance of utilizing MAXSURF in hastening the processing of approval of various applications both for new construction and existing vessels.

Further, MARINA technical personnel including naval architects modelled the tanker and LCT hulls using different techniques and performed stability criteria checks and generated stability booklets. The hull design performance was also simulated using MAXSURF motions; calculated its resistance and powering using MAXSURF resistance and MAXSURF structures.

The MAXSURF Training was facilitated by SRS Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez, Engr. Paulo Robert Aguila from Bertoleta Engineering Services and NAMED, SRS Chief Engr. Ernesto Caluza.

## MARINA Holds 4Q Regional Directors' Conference

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) held its 4th Quarter Regional Directors' Conference (RDC) on 11-13 December 2024 to address key updates and directives to further strengthen the agency's maritime programs and services across the regions.

The conference served as a platform to review the implementation status of directives from the Management Committee (MANCOM) and previous RDCs. Updates on compliance monitoring activities and maritime incidents were also discussed, reinforcing MARINA's commitment to maritime safety and governance.

One of the highlights of the conference was the introduction of

MARINA's newly engaged French maritime expert, who will assist the agency in aligning its initiatives with international maritime standards.

The RDC was led by MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan, along with Deputy Administrator for Planning Nenita S. Atenza, Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol; joined by Service Unit and Regional Office Directors.

This quarter's RDC was hosted by the MARINA Regional Office 10 (Cagayan De Oro).



## Navigating Mental Health in Maritime Training

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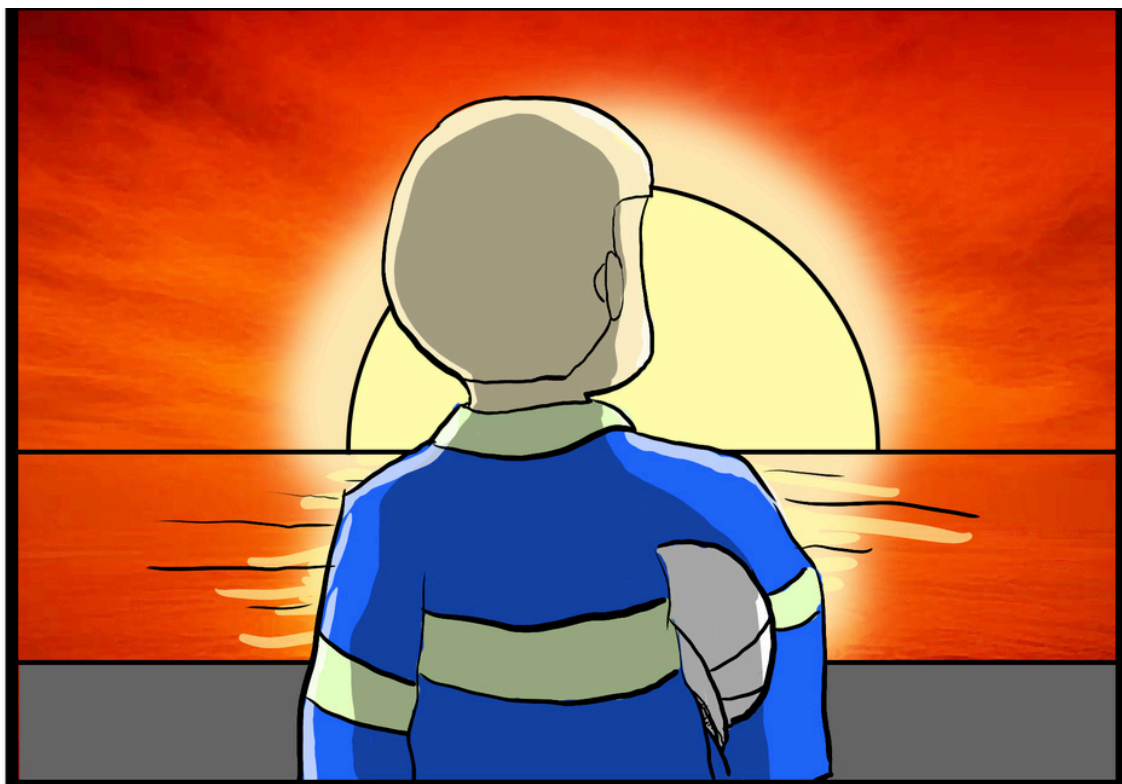
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In an industry as demanding as maritime, the mental well-being of seafarers often takes a backseat. MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan’s recent remarks during the National Conference of Guidance Counselors and Student Affairs Officers of Maritime Schools shine a necessary spotlight on this urgent issue. She emphasized that mental health must be at the core of maritime education and training, especially as seafarers navigate high-pressure environments and prolonged time away from home.

Administrator Malaluan’s advocacy aligns with ongoing global revisions to the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). These updates aim to integrate mental health considerations into training standards, alongside measures to prevent bullying, harassment, and gender-based discrimination. Such changes reflect a growing understanding that psychologically safe workplaces are essential for the safety and efficiency of maritime operations.

The conference’s theme, “Mental Health: An Urgent Concern!” brought together

counselors and industry stakeholders to address how aspiring seafarers can be better prepared to manage the psychological demands of the profession. This collective effort highlights the pivotal role of guidance counselors and student affairs officers in fostering a culture of care and resilience within the maritime sector.

Encouragingly, recent data from the Seafarer Happiness Index shows progress, with scores rising to 7.16 in the third quarter of 2024. While this improvement is modest, it signifies that initiatives to address mental health are starting to make an impact. Still, much work remains to ensure these efforts reach all corners of the industry.

As the maritime world evolves, so too must its commitment to mental health. By embedding psychological well-being into education, training, and workplace culture, the Philippines can continue to produce not only skilled but also emotionally resilient seafarers who can thrive in a global industry. Administrator Malaluan’s message is a timely reminder that caring for mental health is not just a policy—it’s a lifeline.

The MARINA Newsletter is published monthly by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). Write-ups or opinions expressed in this publication are exclusively and solely by the writers and they do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Agency on relevant issues.

The Editorial Board welcomes contributions. Interested officials and employees are invited to submit their articles through email address [padmo@marina.gov.ph](mailto:padmo@marina.gov.ph). Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this newsletter.

# DMW, MARINA wrap up 2nd Legal Review of Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers IRR

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The legal review, conducted from 02-06 December 2024, aimed to finalize the IRR for one of maritime sector's landmark laws.

The Act and its IRR seek to protect the rights and welfare of Filipino seafarers, ensuring fair treatment, better working conditions, and mechanisms for resolving grievances. The week-long review also covered critical provisions, with stakeholders and agencies providing input to address employment concerns, welfare benefits, and professional development opportunities.

Central to the provisions in the IRR is the pivotal role of MARINA in enhancing maritime education and training for both overseas and domestic seafarers, and in taking over the accreditation, regulation, and monitoring of institutions offering maritime degree programs and technical courses while establishing a shipboard training framework. The Act and its IRR also mandates MARINA to consult with industry stakeholders in crafting training guidelines, underscoring the importance of collaboration in building a responsive and effective maritime workforce.

DMW Assistant Secretary for Sea-Based OFW Concerns Jerome Pampolina, who chairs the Legal Review Committee for the drafting of the IRR, underscored the importance of the finalization of the IRR saying, "Let this be our legacy and

a gift to our Filipino seafarers and their families this Christmas."

For her part, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan expressed her gratitude to the whole maritime community in putting their tireless efforts in helping craft, review, and refine the IRR. "While the review process is not yet fully completed, I am pleased to note that significant progress has been made. With the active participation of relevant government agencies, manning and maritime associations, seafarers' union and other stakeholders, we have successfully reviewed the entire draft IRR. Substantive recommendations were made and thoughtfully considered, and many of which have already been adopted," Administrator Malaluan stated.

After the legal review, the IRR will now undergo further review by the DMW, MARINA and other government agencies before being finalized for signing, publication and implementation. Once enforced, it is expected to provide clear guidelines for carrying out the Magna Carta's provisions.

The DMW and MARINA reaffirmed their commitment to protecting Filipino seafarers' rights and advancing the maritime sector through their collaborative efforts in finalizing the Magna Carta's IRR.



# ICCFRAIMC Approves Resolutions to Enhance Philippines' Maritime Compliance

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**Designation of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) in Leading the Ratification/Accession of the Philippines to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, as amended (FAL Convention)**

A resolution designating the PPA as the continued focal leading the ratification/accession of the Philippines to the FAL Convention.

The latest updates on the priority IMO instruments were also presented, including challenges encountered and assistance required by the focal agencies, concerning their ratification/accession efforts specifically on obtaining the Certificates of Concurrence (COC) from concerned agencies.

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary

for Maritime, Atty. Elmer Francisco U. Sarmiento, presided over the meeting as Chairperson. He emphasized the importance of upholding the commitment to staying at the forefront of international maritime developments and thoroughly examining the benefits of acceding to relevant maritime instruments to advance the Philippine maritime industry.

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format and attended by representatives from the Committee member agencies, including DOTr-Maritime, MARINA, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the DA Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), the Cebu Port Authority (CPA), and the UP Marine Science Institute.



# MARINA, PCG Strengthen Partnership for Safer, More Sustainable Maritime Industry at 2nd MARINA-PCG Forum

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security during the 2nd MARINA-PCG Forum on 02 December 2024.

The event, themed “Combined Strategies for Enhancing Maritime Safety Towards a Safer and Sustainable Maritime Industry,” brought together key officials from both institutions to discuss pressing issues and explore collaborative solutions.

PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil L. Gavan highlighted the importance of strong cooperation and excellent relationship between the two agencies, emphasizing the need for open communication and alignment of regulations to ensure a more efficient, safe and secure maritime industry.

MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan echoed the sentiment, underscoring the significance of inter-agency collaboration

in addressing the evolving challenges faced by the Philippine maritime sector. She reiterated MARINA’s commitment to working closely with the PCG to build a strong and resilient maritime industry that can meet the demands of the modern era.

Both agencies shared insights and discuss critical topics such as salvage, wreck removal, ship breaking, maritime casualties, and the regulation of recreational boats and watercraft.

CG Vice Admiral Joseph M. Coyme concluded the forum by expressing gratitude for MARINA’s continued support and emphasizing the importance of strengthening the partnership between the two agencies. By working together, the MARINA and PCG aim to create a safer and more sustainable maritime industry for the Philippines.



# MARINA Chief Stresses Mental Health as a Priority in Maritime Education and Training

MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized the urgent need to prioritize mental health in maritime education and training during the National Conference of Guidance Counselors and Student Affairs Officers of Maritime Schools from 02 to 06 December 2024, in Manila.

Organized by Stella Maris-Manila in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the conference convened approximately 70 guidance counselors and 30-40 participants from maritime, government, and church-based organizations. With the theme “Mental Health: An Urgent Concern!”, the event aimed to empower counselors and student affairs officers with the tools to support the mental, emotional, and psychological well-being of aspiring seafarers.

In her presentation, Administrator Malaluan highlighted mental

health as a critical component of maritime operations, especially amid ongoing updates to global maritime standards.

Malaluan discussed the ongoing comprehensive review of the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) and its associated Code. Among the 22 identified areas for revision is the integration of mental health considerations, gender sensitization, and measures to prevent bullying and harassment, including sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH).

“The review and revision of the STCW Convention and Code must align with existing efforts to establish training provisions for preventing bullying and harassment in the maritime sector,” Malaluan said. She stressed the need for companies to create psychologically safe workplaces that protect seafarers’ mental health.

She also shared recent data from the third quarter of 2024, which showed a slight increase in the seafarer happiness index to 7.16 out of 10, up from 6.99 in the previous quarter. This upward trend reflects efforts to address mental health concerns within the industry.

The conference reinforced the pivotal role of guidance counselors and student affairs officers in nurturing skilled and mentally resilient seafarers. As the maritime industry evolves, integrating mental health into maritime training standards remains a top priority, ensuring the success and well-being of Filipino seafarers both locally and globally.



# MARINA Conducts Online Training-Workshop on Ship Energy Efficiency Regulations

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Marine Environment Protection Development Service (MEPDS) Unit, conducted an online training-workshops on Ship Energy Efficiency Regulations on 3-4 and 10-11 December 2024, via video conferencing.

The sessions focused on the development of Ship-specific Energy Efficiency Management Plans (SEEMP) Part I and Data Collection Plans (SEEMP Part II) in compliance with MARINA Circular No. SR-2021-05, titled “Rules and Regulations on the Implementation of Ship’s Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) and Data Collection System (DCS) for Fuel Oil Consumption for all Philippine-Registered Ships.”

The circular mandates Philippine-registered ships with 400 gross tonnes and above to submit their SEEMP during the next intermediate or renewal survey after 01 January 2025. Issued on January 4, 2022, it aims to enhance compliance with international standards for fuel oil consumption data collection and energy efficiency.

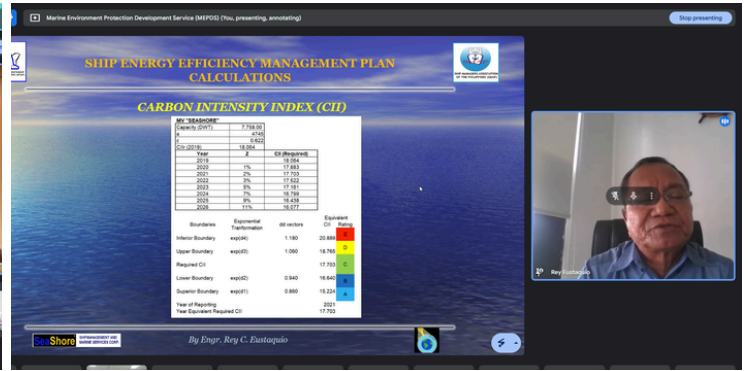
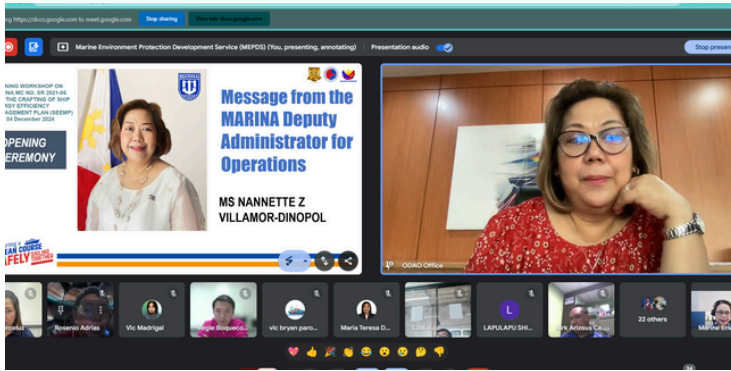
80 representatives from 28 shipping companies and 14 MARINA units participated in the workshops, which

facilitated understanding of policy provisions, shared best practices, and provided hands-on guidance for SEEMP preparation.

In her speech, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations, Ms. Nannette V. Dinopol, emphasized the significance of the Ship Energy Efficiency Management regulations, calling them a pivotal step in the country’s maritime development. She highlighted how these measures encourage shipping companies to innovate, reduce energy consumption, and contribute to sustainability.

Dinopol stressed the need for collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, shipping companies, environmental groups, and local communities, to drive the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and create a sustainable maritime industry framework.

The workshops, held in partnership with the Marine and Technical Superintendent Association of the Philippines (MTSAP) and the Ship Managers Association of the Philippines (SMAP), will continue with two additional batches scheduled for January 14-15 and January 28-29, 2025.



# MARINA Hosts Enforcers’ Dialogue to Strengthen PH Maritime Safety and Security



In line with the Administrator's 10-point Agenda prioritizing safety and security in maritime transportation, the MARINA Enforcement Service (ES) conducted an Enforcers’ Dialogue on 03 December 2024.

The event brought together MARINA Regional Directors and Enforcers, promoting collaboration to enhance enforcement strategies and align efforts in ensuring maritime safety and compliance.

Central to the dialogue were discussions on best practices for enforcing maritime laws and regulations. Key topics included the review and implementation of Executive and

Administrative Orders, particularly those related to the International Ships and Port Security (ISPS) Code and the institutionalization of the Marine Accident Investigation Committee (MAIC) to address marine accidents and incidents effectively.

Included in the topics discussed was the use of the Indo Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) platform, showcasing its role in modernizing maritime enforcement. Participants also reviewed the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

# MARINA, Stakeholders Set Regulatory Agenda for the Overseas Shipping Sector



MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan recognized the Philippine Ship Agents Association (PSAA's) vital role in representing foreign shipowners whose vessels call on Philippine ports during its 50th anniversary on 04 December 2024 in Parañaque City.

"You keep the Philippine trade and economy alive, ensuring efficient operations and fostering critical links with government agencies, local suppliers, and service providers," she said, commending the PSAA's efforts to facilitate maritime trade amid the nation's limited Philippine-flagged fleet.

Administrator Malaluan also addressed the evolving challenges of global shipping, including digitalization and decarbonization, underscoring their impact on the country's maritime industry. She expressed MARINA's intent to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders like the PSAA to reduce transport and



logistics costs and, ultimately, lower the cost of commodities.

She further emphasized the need for collaborative efforts, saying, "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. These initiatives will encourage more ships to call on Philippine ports and make our maritime trade more competitive."

The event also saw the induction of the PSAA's new set of officers, led by its incoming President, Mr. Ric Jamandre. MARINA also extended its gratitude to outgoing PSAA President, Mr. Joey Ilagan, for his leadership and dedication to the association and the maritime industry.

MARINA congratulates the PSAA on its 50 years of excellence and looks forward to a stronger partnership in driving the growth and sustainability of the Philippine maritime sector.

## MARINA Enhances Personnel Skills in Maritime Safety and Security through Specialized Training

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—The MARINA- Enforcement Service (ES) delivered a five-day training on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs), and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS).

The program, aimed at equipping personnel from MARINA's Central and Regional Offices with comprehensive knowledge on maritime safety and security, took place at the NYK-FIL Maritime E-Training, Inc. Training Center.

The training, held in two batches, covered vital topics on the 41 Rules and 4 Annexes of COLREGs, emphasizing situational awareness, collision risk assessment, and effective decision-making in various maritime scenarios. The ISPS portion provided insights into international maritime security policies and the

responsibilities of governments, companies, and individuals. A key feature of the training was the Simulation Exercises, designed to assess and enhance the participants' preparedness and response strategies.

To measure the effectiveness of the program, an assessment was conducted at the end of the sessions, with all MARINA participants achieving outstanding results.

During the closing ceremony, MARINA presented a Certificate of Appreciation to NYK-FIL Maritime E-Training, Inc. for its vital role in enhancing the skills and knowledge of MARINA personnel, in further advancing the agency's commitment to maritime safety and security.



# REGIONAL NEWS

## MARINA Strengthens Nationwide Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign

The MARINA continues to champion maritime safety across the Philippines through the "Ligtas Byaheng Dagat" campaign. This initiative, part of a nationwide Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan, is designed to foster a culture of safety, compliance, and environmental responsibility among maritime stakeholders.

In **December 2024**, MARINA Regional Offices, in collaboration with various local government units and agencies, conducted a series of awareness campaigns in **Palawan, Misamis Occidental, and General Santos City**.

### Maritime Safety Campaign in Ozamiz City

The MARINA Regional Office 10 (Cagayan De Oro) launched the third leg of the campaign on **19 December 2024**, in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The event featured a motorcade, a town hall meeting, and consultative dialogues. MARINA officials, led by OIC-Regional Director Juliet S. Nacion, emphasized the agency's commitment to maritime safety and sustainability. Key discussions included compliance monitoring, enforcement protocols, and maritime safety investigations.

### Strengthening Safety in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

Earlier, on **04 December 2024**, MARINA Regional Office 4 (Batangas) held the second leg of the campaign in Palawan. Activities included interactive discussions and demonstrations on maritime safety, emergency preparedness, and responsible boating practices. Representatives from PCG, PPA, and BFAR joined the event, which aimed to educate stakeholders and coastal communities on reducing maritime accidents and enhancing safety protocols.



In a related effort, the MARINA Enforcement Service (ES) organized another session at the VJR Hall of the Provincial Capitol. This emphasized compliance with MARINA policies, aligning with the Administrator's 10-point agenda focused on safety and security.

### Concluding the Campaign in General Santos City

On **16 December 2024**, MARINA Regional Office XII (General Santos) wrapped up the caravan in General Santos City, bringing together stakeholders from the city government, law enforcement agencies, and maritime organizations. The discussions highlighted passenger rights, environmental responsibility, and safety measures to minimize maritime incidents. MARINA Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo commended the collective efforts of participants in ensuring safer seas and sustainable practices.

## MARINA-Gensan Brings Services Closer to Sarangani with Glan Satellite Office

Glan, Sarangani – The MARINA Regional Office 12 (General Santos) and the Municipality of Glan have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to establish a MARINA Satellite Office in the municipality.

This partnership aims to improve access to crucial maritime services for local stakeholders, including seafarers, fishing communities, and maritime businesses. With the satellite office set to open in the first quarter of 2025, residents of Glan and surrounding areas will benefit from a wider range of services, such as vessel registration and renewal of safety certificates and licenses.

MRO12 Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo and Municipality of Glan Mayor Victor James B. Yap, Sr., signed the MOA, expressing their commitment to enhancing maritime safety and efficiency in the region. This initiative is expected to boost the local maritime industry by providing timely and accessible services, ultimately contributing to the economic growth and development of Sarangani Province.



## MARINA-Legazpi Leads Relief Operation for Super Typhoon "Pepito" Victims in Catanduanes

VIRAC, CATANDUANES – The MARINA Regional Office 5 (Legazpi City), led by its Director Atty. Maximo Bañares, Jr., conducted Operation Tabang on **05 December 2024**, to extend much-needed assistance to residents of Brgy. Osmeña, Viga, Catanduanes, who were severely affected by Super Typhoon "Pepito."

In collaboration with Fr. Renato "Atoy" Delarosa of the Diocese of Virac and personnel from Coast Guard Station Virac, the operation reached a total of 81 households, providing essential relief supplies to help families recover from the calamity.

The aid included food packs, hygiene supplies, blankets, and water gallons, addressing immediate needs and easing the burden caused by the calamity.



## FEATURED PHOTOS

### Congratulations to MAAP Class of 2024!

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) in Mariveles, Bataan.

A total of 223 graduates – 122 from the Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT) and 101 from the Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering (BSME) – have successfully completed their studies, with eight receiving special awards.

In her keynote address, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized the indispensable role of Filipino seafarers in sustaining global trade and commended MAAP's commitment to providing world-class maritime education and training. She reaffirmed MARINA's dedication to enhancing seafarer welfare, meeting and exceeding STCW standards, and embracing emerging technologies for a more sustainable and efficient maritime industry.

