

PMMA ALUMNI HOMECOMING

MESSAGE

PMMA GRANDSTAND
SAN NARCISO, ZAMBALES
25 JANUARY 2025, 2:00 PM

MS. SONIA B. MALALUAN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

TO PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA)
SUPERINTENDENT COMMODORE JOEL ABUTAL; TO HONORABLE
MAYOR OF SAN NARCISO, MAYOR LARAINÉ ABAD-SARMIENTO:
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
CGA COMMO. JEREMIAS SIMON;
TO CHIEF ENGINEER JOEL ABELLA, PRESIDENT OF CLASS 1990
AND CHAIRMAN-HOST CLASS OF 2025;
TO ALL ALUMNI, PMMA MIDSHIPMEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN; GOOD AFTERNOON TO ALL.

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT
MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA) ALONG WITH ITS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
(PMMAAAI) FOR INVITING ME TO BE A PART OF THIS GRACIOUS
EVENT.

I AM SURE ALL OF YOU ARE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOUR OLD COLLEAGUES AND CELEBRATE THIS ALUMNI HOMECOMING. THIS IS NOT JUST A MERE GET TOGETHER BUT IT ALSO SERVES AS AN AVENUE FOR NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO TACKLE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME INDUSTRY.

WITH THE THEME "FIESTA OF TOGETHERNESS," I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TOGETHER, STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP AND MAXIMIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH PARTNER AGENCIES AND RELEVANT MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE SHARED GOAL OF ACHIEVING INTEGRATED STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARITIME SECTOR.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THE MARITIME INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (MIDP) 2028, WHICH SERVES AS THE ROADMAP OF THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME INDUSTRY WAS ADOPTED LAST YEAR THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 55 BUT EO 55 IS NOTHING WITHOUT CONCRETE AND CONSISTENT ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR. THAT'S WHY, IT IS OUR GREAT PRIDE THAT THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF RA NO. 12021 OR MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS WAS FINALLY SIGNED LAST JANUARY 8. IT IS A TESTAMENT HOW COMMITTED THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IN SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF OUR FILIPINO SEAFARERS. IT IS NONE OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT

HIMSELF WHO EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IRR ENVISIONS A WELL-
PREPARED AND COMPETITIVE MARITIME WORKFORCE BY
ENHANCING ACCESS TO ADVANCED TRAINING AND REQUIRING
MARITIME EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO ADOPT CUTTING-EDGE
FACILITIES, EQUIPPING SEAFARERS AND CADETS TO COMPETE
GLOBALLY.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
GRADUATES OF PMMA WHO ARE EITHER EXCELLING OR LEADING
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIPBUILDING AND
SHIP REPAIR ENTITIES, MANNING AGENCIES OR OTHER
COMPANIES TO PROVIDE THE BEST QUALITY SERVICE. IT IS
COMMENDABLE HOW PMMA INSTILL TO YOUR GRADUATES THE
RIGHT ATTITUDE, DISCIPLINE, PROFESSIONALISM, KNOWLEDGE
AND SKILLS TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN
TIMES. THE MARINA ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE CONTINUOUS
RECOGNITION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ON HOW COMPETENT
OUR FILIPINO SEAFARERS IS VERY CRUCIAL FOR OUR NATION. IT
IS NOT ENOUGH THAT WE ARE LEADING THE NATIONS IN
PROVIDING THE NUMBER OF SEAFARERS BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS NO
DOUBT ON THEIR COMPETENCE AND THAT SUCH IS ALSO
DEMONSTRATED AND APPLIED IN THEIR DAY TO DAY WORK ON
BOARD SHIPS, BE IT OVERSEAS OR WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE
WATERS.

PMMA HAS DONE A GREAT JOB IN PRODUCING COMPETENT SEAFARERS THROUGH THE YEARS. IT DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTES PARTICULARLY IN OUR GLOBAL STATUS, WHEREIN THE RECOGNITION OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS A MAJOR PROVIDER OF SEAFARERS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THROUGH ITS INCLUSION IN THE SO CALLED "WHITE LIST" OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO). THIS LIST SHOWS THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE GIVING THE STCW CONVENTION IS FULL AND COMPLETE EFFECT, SHOWCASING THE PHILIPPINES COMMITMENT IN MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS IN MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FOR SEAFARERS.

ASIDE FROM THIS, WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF STCW CONVENTION. OUR AGENCY UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVITY AND FORWARD-THINKING IN REVISITING THE STCW STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF SEAFARERS AND OTHER MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS. IN THIS LIGHT, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF PMMA IN VARIOUS EFFORTS OF MARINA NOT ONLY IN MATTERS RELATED TO SEAFARERS BUT ALSO ON OTHER MARITIME-RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS SUCH AS CAPITALIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

WE ARE COMMITTED IN DIGITALIZING TRANSACTIONS THROUGH OUR BLOCKCHAIN-ENABLED CERTIFICATION AUTOMATED SYSTEM (MARINA BEST), WHICH PROMOTES EASE OF DOING

BUSINESS, LESSENS THE 'ROOM FOR CORRUPTION' AND IT GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO OUR SEAFARERS TO HAVE MORE TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES BY ELIMINATING THE NEED TO BE ONSITE IN ORDER TO PROCESS THEIR DOCUMENTS.

WE ARE PROUD THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS TAKING LEADERSHIPS IN THIS AREA. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WE HAVE STARTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MISMO OR THE MARINA INTEGRATED SEAFARERS ONLINE SYSTEM ALLOWING ONLINE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION AND ONLINE ISSUANCE OF – CERTIFICATES IN FEBRUARY 2022, WHILE IMO ADOPTED THE GUIDELINES ON SEAFARERS E-CERTIFICATES IN JUNE OF 2023, MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER OUR IMPLEMENTATION. THE BEST PART OF WHICH IS MISMO IS FULLY COMPLIANT WITH THE ELEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF E-CERTIFICATES.

WE MAY HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION, RESULTING TO LONG QUEING TIME, EVEN REACHING TO 2 OR 3 MONTHS FOR SEAFARERS' APPOINTMENT , AS WELL AS THE PROCESSING AND RELEASING OF THE CERTIFICATES. NOW, I AM DELIGHTED TO SHARE THAT SINCE LAST YEAR, WE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THIS 1 WEEK IN GETTING APPOINTMENT AND MAX OF 3 DAYS TO GET THE CERTIFICATES. ULTIMATE TARGET IS TO MAKE THIS 1 DAY ONLY. LAST YEAR, WE ALSO STARTED THE INTERFACE OF MISMO WITH THE SOURCES OF SEAFARERS DATA SUCH AS MHEIS, MTIs, ASSESSMENT CENTERS, MEDICAL CLINICS/PRACTITIONERS.

AS PART OF THE DIGITALIZATION PROGRAM, MARINA WILL BE SIGNING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING FOR THE MISMO INTERFACE, ON FEB 12, ON THE SIDE OF HTW 11 SESSION IN LONDON TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS.

AS CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, MARINA WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROACTIVE AND ENSURE THAT THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK EVOLVES AND ADOPTS TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY. IN DOING SO, WE VALUE THE ESSENTIAL AND CRITICAL PARTNERSHIP WITH PMMA AND YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

THE MARINA SHARES PMMA'S VISION OF BECOMING HOST TO CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH.... WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FUTURE WHERE PMMA IS INDEED A LEADER IN WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FACILITIES, A MODEL STATE MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION AND A GO TO INSTITUTION OF FUTURE STUDENTS WHO DREAM OF BECOMING TOP CALIBER SHIP OFFICERS. MARINA, AS TRULY THE SINGLE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STCW CONVENTION, AS AMENDED AND AS MAYBE AMENDED, IS COMMITTED TO FORGE A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PMMA AND THE PMMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TOWARDS THIS GOAL. IT IS ONLY THROUGH OPENNESS, COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT OF THE PMMA,

MARINA AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS THAT WE CAN INDEED EXPAND AND PROVIDE MORE COMPETENT SHIP OFFICERS AND CREW.

IN CLOSING, I HUMBLY APPEAL TO ALL OF YOU, IN PARTICULAR, THE MEMBERS OF THE PMMA ALUMNI, TO PLEASE CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR INITIATIVES FOR A SAFER, SUSTAINABLE GREEN MARITIME INDUSTRY AND A FUTURE-PROOF MARITIME WORKFORCE.

THANK YOU. MULI, MAGANDANG HAPON SA ATING LAHAT AT MABUHAY ANG PMMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, MABUHAY ANG PMMA, MABUHAY ANG MARINONG PILIPINO.