



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

OPENING STATEMENT

To be delivered by the Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan during the 3rd MARINA-PCG Forum to be held on 26 March 2025, MROXI- Davao City

Our Honorable colleagues in the maritime industry, PCG Vice Admiral Joseph Coyne, MARINA Deputy Administrators Engr. Nannette Dinopol and Ms. Nenita Atienza, fellow workers in government, and distinguished guests, Maayong buntag sa ato ang tanan!

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you, especially to our partners from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). On behalf of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), I sincerely appreciate your unwavering commitment to maritime safety.

I also extend my gratitude to MARINA officials and personnel, including Directors, Regional Directors and OIC Directors who have traveled from various locations to Participate in this important gathering. Special thanks to the MARINA Enforcement Service led by Atty Benny Manlapaz, and MARINA Region XI, led by Regional Director Liza Orongan, for organizing this event here in the beautiful City of Davao.

Golden Voyage Towards Green and Digital Maritime Future

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As we convene for this third forum, we reflect on our theme: “Breaking Barriers and Harnessing the Power of Collaboration for Greater Achievements.” This resonates deeply with our mission to strengthen inter-agency partnerships, particularly with the PCG, through shared best practices and mutual trust.

In our past two fora, we collectively reviewed and aligned maritime rules, and regulations. Today, we continue this effort to ensure their effective implementation and industry-wide compliance. Our ultimate goal is a safer, more efficient voyage at sea—one that upholds the highest standards of maritime safety.

Achieving this requires open communication, adaptability, and a shared commitment to excellence. I encourage all participants to engage actively, share insights, and propose innovative strategies that will drive meaningful change. Huwag po tayong mahihyang magsalita—ang inyong mga obserbasyon, opinion at suhestyon ay mahalaga upang mapabuti at lalong mapatatag ang ating pagtutulungan at mga sistema sa ating mga ahensya.

Beyond addressing challenges, this forum allows us to celebrate our collective successes. Through collaboration, we have strengthened maritime policy enforcement, vessel compliance, and maritime domain awareness. However, much work remains, and only sustained cooperation will allow us to overcome barriers and achieve greater milestones.

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Safety is a shared responsibility. From policymakers to enforcement agencies, shipowners to seafarers—each of us plays a crucial role in fostering a culture of safety and vigilance. By working together, we can build a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable maritime industry for generations to come.

As we embark on today's discussions, let us embrace unity and collaboration. May this forum serve as a catalyst for actionable solutions and deeper partnerships, paving the way for a maritime industry that truly embodies "Ligtas Biyaheng Dagat."

Daghang salamat, and I look forward to insightful and productive exchanges!

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