



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

Good morning, everyone.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this important two-day workshop on the Amendment of the OPMF Joint Memorandum Circular and the Creation of the Claims Manual.

Today marks a critical step in strengthening our mechanisms to protect our marine environment and ensure prompt and effective response in times of oil spill incidents.

This workshop serves a critical purpose. We are here to craft clear policies on the Collection and Payment of OPMF Contributions from owners and operators of tankers and barges. These contributions are not mere formalities; they are essential resources to establish a readily accessible fund that will enable the Philippine Coast Guard to undertake immediate and effective cleanup operations in the unfortunate event of an oil spill.

Equally important, we will begin the groundwork for the Claims Manual—a vital document that will guide the proper and equitable processing of claims from individuals, communities, and entities adversely affected by oil pollution incidents. Through this, we seek to institutionalize a just, transparent, and efficient mechanism for the delivery of compensation and support to those in need.

Our discussions over the next two days will have a lasting impact. The Revised Circular and Claims Manual we aim to develop and finalize will not only improve our oil spill response system but will also reinforce our commitment to environmental stewardship, maritime safety, and social justice.

I encourage everyone to engage fully, share your insights, and collaborate openly. Let us work together to ensure that the standards we set today will serve our marine environment and our people well into the future.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and meaningful workshop.