

## ***Message from the Administrator***

### ***OPENING MEETING OF THE 2ND ILO INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE PHILIPPINES' SID SYSTEM***

***05 May 2025***

Dr. John Campbell, our partners from FMC and NEC, esteemed colleagues and fellow workers in MARINA.

On behalf of the MARINA, we welcome Dr. Campbell as our ILO Independent auditor. As we gather here today to commence the 2nd Independent Evaluation of the Philippine Seafarer's Identity Document, I am filled with a sense of pride and optimism.

Reflecting on the remarkable achievements of our past, we were recognized for our efforts when awarded Asia's Best Regional Identification Document by the prestigious Reconnaissance High-Security Printing in November 2018. This achievement underscores our dedication to upholding the highest standards for our seafarers and the maritime industry.

We also remember the first Independent Evaluation conducted in 2019. It was a milestone that set the foundation for our ongoing commitment to innovation and security. Moreover, we are honored by our recognition in 2020 as the first ratifying member to fully meet the minimum requirements specified in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the ILO Convention No. 185, as amended. These

accolades are not just symbols of our accomplishments but serve as a testament to the hard work and dedication of every individual involved in this endeavor.

Today, as we jumpstart the 2nd Independent Evaluation, let us carry forward this legacy of excellence. Filipino seafarers are the heart of the global maritime industry, and it is our duty to ensure their identity documents reflect the security, reliability, and ease of use they deserve. Through this evaluation, we aim to enhance our systems, incorporating best practices and innovative solutions that will empower our maritime workforce.

I am truly glad that the Philippines was able to implement the requirements of C185 within less than 3 years after the adoption of the revised technical standards. This was made possible through the timely intervention and provision of necessary budget thru the initiative of the ANGKLA Partylist representative Congressman Manalo and the House Committee on Transport. I am proud with this achievement having participated in the Experts Group Meeting held in ILO in 2015, replacing the obsolete standards with those specifications similar to the biometric features of a travel document.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. JOHN CAMPBELL, whose expertise, and insights are invaluable to this process. Together, with open minds and a spirit of collaboration, we can achieve remarkable outcomes that

will benefit not only our seafarers but the maritime industry at large.

Thank you all for your dedication and participation in this important initiative. Let us move forward and be relentless in our actions towards attaining our shared vision of a better future for our seafarers, as they give their best to the world.