

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan

MARINA Flag Ceremony | 2 June 2025

51st Founding Anniversary

Theme: "Navigating Change, Shaping the Maritime Future"

To our Deputy Administrators, Executive Director and Deputy ED, Directors/ OICs from Central and Regional Offices, fellow workers in MARINA, Masayang morning to all and Happy 51st Founding Anniversary.

Yesterday, we kicked off our 51st Founding Anniversary with a fun and meaningful Sportsfest—five spirited teams, one MARINA family. It was a celebration of energy, unity, and friendly competition. CONGRATULATIONS TEAM ORANGE. Today, we continue that celebration by honoring not only our collective journey, but also the people behind our mission—*kayo po, bawat isa sa atin*.

Fifty-one years in service is no small feat. Over the decades, MARINA has weathered many tides. And through it all, we have stayed on course—driven by our mandate, and anchored on the values of professionalism, integrity, and excellence, as well as our commitment to public service.

This year's theme, **"Navigating Change, Shaping the Maritime Future,"** reflects exactly who we are and what we strive to be. In this ever-evolving world, we do not simply react to change—we lead through it. We shape the future by how we serve today.

"You don't wait for the future to arrive—you sail towards it. And in MARINA, we are not passengers. We are the navigators."

Just a few days ago, **MARINA received the Silver Award from the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA)—the highest recognition given so far, for Good Governance and Regulatory Excellence** for 2025.

We were the **top-scoring, first-time awardee**. This recognition affirms our hard work to simplify processes, promote transparency, and build a system that truly works for our stakeholders. Our MISMO system was even recognized for its role in the government's digital transformation, and MARINA was commended as a **model agency**— setting the bar for excellence.

But that's not all. Last year, we received the GCash Digital Excellence Award as Leader in Sustainable Financial Digitalization Award. Early this year, we also received the Wind Vane Award from the DOST PAG-ASA recognizing our efforts in the timely dissemination of weather information and data which to our end contributes greatly in enhancing maritime safety.

We also recently **concluded the 2nd Independent Evaluation of the Seafarer's Identity Document**, led by the International Labour Organization. The result? MARINA's SID issuance system was described as **"very good," "secure,"** and **"on track."** The ILO evaluator, Dr. John Campbell, praised the **reliability of our operations**, both here at the Central Office and in the regions. Once again, we showed the world that MARINA doesn't just follow standards—we uphold and elevate them.

The feedback and comments from our clients, both seafarers and shipping stakeholders, warm our hearts and inspire us to continue to deliver the best services, we committed to provide.

All of these are testaments to what we can accomplish when we work together, when we push forward, and when we don't settle for "pwede na." **Thank you to each and everyone for the hard work and dedication, resulting to these recognitions of MARINA.**

To our awardees later at the ceremony— advance congratulations. Your excellence is not only worth celebrating, it is worth emulating.

And to everyone at MARINA—from Luzon, Visayas, to Mindanao—you matter. Every document processed, every inspection conducted, every reform proposed and implemented —it all contributes to a bigger vision. **We are not just an agency. We are an institution of purpose.**

"We are not just here to keep the ship afloat—we are here to make it sail better, farther, and safer for every Filipino."

Let's keep navigating change—with courage. Let's keep shaping the future—with purpose. Let's keep serving—with heart.

Happy 51st Founding Anniversary, MARINA. Mabuhay po tayong lahat. Mabuhay ang MARINA. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. ###