

**DAY OF THE FILIPINO SEAFARER 2025**  
**25 June 2025 | Rizal Park Hotel, Manila**

**DRAFT WELCOMING REMARKS**

**SONIA B. MALALUAN**  
**Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority**

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**Good morning, everyone.**

**Distinguished guests, <insert DMW Sec/Representative>, <insert DOLE Sec/Representative>, PCG Deputy Commandant for Operations <name>, STCW Office Executive Director Mr. Samuel L. Batalla, Chairperson of the Committee for the Celebration of the Day of the Filipino Seafarer and STCW Office Deputy Executive Director Capt. Vicente C. Navarro, Vice Chairperson of the Committee and Manpower Development Service OIC Director Mr. Jose Louie Banua, our speakers for today's morning session, our participants from Licensed Manning Agencies, Maritime Higher Education Institutions, Maritime Training Institutions, other maritime stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.**

**It is with deep pride and great joy that I welcome you all to the celebration of the Day of the Filipino Seafarer 2025 — a day that not only honors the tireless dedication of our seafarers, but also reminds us of the vital role they play in keeping global trade moving.**

**This year's celebration is especially meaningful, as we align with the International Maritime Organization's theme, "My Harassment-Free Ship." This global call invites us to listen, act, and take a stand — not**

**just for safe ships, but for ships where respect, dignity, and equality prevail. Today's Symposium brings this dialogue to the forefront, giving voice to experiences and sharing commitments toward a seafaring industry free from all forms of harassment and abuse.**

**Now let me ask:**

**Who keeps the engines of global commerce running even during times of crisis?**

**Who braves the oceans for months at a time to provide for their families and uplift our economy?**

**And who deserves every opportunity to grow, be protected, and be proud of their service? IT IS THE SEAFARERS.**

**But beyond this crucial dialogue, today is also about action. And so, I am proud to share that with the strong support of the ALMA Maritime Group, our Licensed Manning Agencies, and the invaluable assistance of the Department of Migrant Workers, we are also hosting a Job Fair for Filipino seafarers right here at the Rizal Park Hotel.**

**This job fair is not merely a recruitment activity. It is a message. It tells every Filipino mariner, "We see you. We value you. And we are investing in your future." It is an affirmation that the Filipino seafarer remains among the most sought-after and respected maritime professionals in the world.**

**Let me ask again:**

**What makes the Filipino seafarer different?**

**It is the heart they bring to every voyage. The discipline they carry in every duty. The bravery and resilience they show through every storm.**

**Filipino seafarers have become the backbone of the global maritime workforce. They are more than just statistics in a deployment report but they are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, partners and providers; bearing the weight of sacrifice so that others may live more comfortably.**

**How do we honor that sacrifice?**

**We honor it by ensuring they are protected. We honor it by expanding their opportunities. And we honor it, most of all, by listening to their voices.**

**Today is also a day of achievement. We take immense pride in conducting the Oath Taking Ceremony for our newly licensed Harbor Pilots and Merchant Marine Officers who will now assume greater responsibilities as leaders in our maritime sector.**

**To all our partners, both government and private sector, *maraming salamat po* for standing with us in championing Filipino seafarers. Whether through policy support, employment facilitation, or education and training excellence, your collaboration brings our vision of a progressive and humane maritime industry closer to reality.**

**To our training institutions, to our maritime schools, to the families of seafarers, and to every Filipino who believes in the value of maritime labor, thank you for being a part of this journey.**

**And finally, to the Filipino seafarers themselves, whether on board or ashore, this day is for you. Your strength moves ships. Your dreams move families. And your example moves the nation forward.**

**Mabuhay kayo. Mabuhay ang mga Marinong Pilipino.**

**Maraming salamat po at isang makabuluhang selebrasyon sa ating lahat.**