REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MARINA ADVISORY
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TO : **All Shipowners/ Bareboat Charterers/ Ship Operators/ Ship Managers/ Shipmasters, Officers and Crew of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Licensed Manning Agencies, Recognized Organizations, and Concerned Government Agencies**

SUBJECT : **INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) CIRCULAR LETTERS AS OF 30 APRIL 2026**

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 30 April 2026:

1. **Circular Letter No. 5159 - Communication from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** – Saudi Arabia expressed support for regional initiatives to protect seafarers amid regional tensions, including establishing safe maritime corridors and ensuring essential supplies and crew changes. The IMO Council acknowledged these efforts, encouraging measures to safeguard maritime safety and supply chains. Saudi Arabia highlighted ongoing logistics and support operations for stranded vessels, emphasizing collaboration to maintain maritime security and trade continuity.

2. **Circular Letter No. 5168 - Communication from the Government of Ukraine** – Ukraine reports ongoing Russian attacks in the Black Sea of the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) of "Chornomorsk", "Vylkove" of the "Delta-Lotsman branch, which are essential elements of the vessel traffic services ensuring the safety of navigation. These are purely civilian objects, and have never been used for military purposes, including defense, and that no military objectives are located in their vicinity. By targeting these facilities, the Russian Federation once again demonstrates its disregard for the rules and customs of war, as well as for the rights of neutral States, by endangering vessels flying their flags.

   Further, Ukraine emphasized that this was not the first instance of damage, all operational VTS facilities have been targeted by the Russian Federation. The VTS station "Mariupol", located in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region, has been seized. The VTS station "Ochakiv" in the Mykolaiv region has been destroyed. The VTS station "Shyroka Balka" in Kherson region is constantly subjected to shelling. But, despite damage to key VTS posts, Ukraine continues to ensure navigation safety through alternative systems. The Ukrainian government urges IMO member states to disseminate this information, highlighting threats to maritime safety and regional stability.

3. **Circular Letter No. 5172 - Communication from the State of Libya** - Libya reports ongoing efforts to manage the Russian tanker ARCTIC METAGAZ crisis, currently under tow by the tug MARDARIV 701 highlighting cooperation with Russia and diplomatic attempts with European states. The financial, technical and operational burden of

managing this crisis has been borne almost entirely by the Libyan State, resulting in a severe depletion of national resources.

The Egyptian tug MARDARIV 701, assigned to the towing operation, has reached a state of advanced technical and operational deterioration which requires urgent maintenance and overhaul. The technical crew has also reached the maximum level of physical and mental exhaustion.

The Libyan side is facing a complex contractual and legal impasse resulting from the international sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation, which have prevented the conclusion of agreement with specialized international marine salvage companies to undertake the technical discharge of the remaining cargo and fuel from the tanker in order to prevent its sinking. The tanker's technical condition has now entered a stage of imminent danger, following confirmation by accompanying maritime units of a gas leak, effectively turning the vessel into a time bomb liable to explode upon any contact.

In light of the foregoing, the Permanent Mission requests that the Organization and its Member States take due note of the measures undertaken by the Libyan State in response to the crisis. The Mission further wishes to make clear that the Libyan State has fulfilled all obligations incumbent upon it and is no longer to be held responsible for any environmental pollution or maritime incident that may affect the Mediterranean basin and neighboring coastal States. Moreover, calls upon the international community to assume its responsibilities in addressing this crisis and to ensure immediate and coordinated international interventions, in order to contain the situation and prevent wider environmental and maritime incidents, which now exceeds the human, technical and operational capabilities of the Libyan State and the resources deployed.

4. **Circular Letter No. 5176 - Communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran** - Iran reports that its vessel, TOUSKA, a civilian container ship registered in Qeshm, Islamic Republic of Iran, while engaged in lawful commercial navigation on a scheduled voyage from North Port, Malaysia, to Chabahar, Islamic Republic of Iran was forcibly intercepted and disabled by U.S. forces in the Sea of Oman. The United States destroyer USS Spruance fired upon the vessel using its 5-inch MK 45 naval gun, striking the engine room and disabling the vessel's propulsion system with personnel boarding including two women and one child and detaining the ship.

   Iran condemns the use of force, safety and security concerns, and considers the incident a wrongful act undermining maritime safety and international law, demanding urgent attention from IMO.

5. **Circular Letter No. 5173 - Communication from the United Arab Emirates** - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) strongly rejects Iran's claims on maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, condemning Iran's attacks against territories, including the territorial waters of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan which caused civilian and port infrastructure damages are a breach of international law and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2817 (2026).

   Iran's actions have caused civilian casualties, damage, and environmental harm, threatening maritime safety and security. Its action continues to threaten the lives of seafarers, thus contradicting the objectives of the IMO as set out in Article 1 of its Convention.

Iran is further hampering and impairing the right of transit passage, in violation of international law, by reportedly imposing tolls to vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz and by threatening civilian vessels with the presence of sea mines in and around the Strait of Hormuz, including in the Traffic Separation Scheme that was adopted by the IMO to promote the safe passage of ships through the Strait.

The UAE urged Iran to stop regional and maritime threats, comply with international law and UNSC Resolution 2817, and called for global cooperation to protect safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

6. **Circular Letter No. 5169 - Communication from the United Republic of Tanzania -** The document communicates Tanzania's update on its Zanzibar Shipping Register, clarifies organizational changes, and provides official contact details to ensure proper awareness and consideration of the updated information.

   The communication updates previous information regarding update of Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of shipping (TZIRS). Wherein, the operational management is now entrusted to Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping Ltd.

   This entity operates under Zanzibar's Maritime Transport Act 2006. It is entirely independent from the previous entity whose mandate was terminated. No legal or institutional continuity exists between the current and former entities.

   Moreover, the government's decision to cease the previous entity's mandate remains valid.

   Furthermore, the recognized channel as the sole valid and authorized platforms for matters relating to TZIRS are as follows:

   Official website: www.tzirs.tz

   Official email addresses: info@tzirs.tz/
   technical@tzirs.tz/
   registration@tzirs.tz

   Previous websites and communication channels are no longer valid.

   Copy of the Circular Letter may be viewed at or downloaded from https://marina.gov.ph/marina-advisory-flag-state-administration-advisory/.

   Attention is therefore invited for all Philippine overseas shipping companies, shipowners, and other concerned maritime entities to observe any action/s you may deem appropriate.

   For the information and guidance of all concerned.

   Issued on JUN 0 1 2026 at Manila, Philippines.

SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator

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