REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

18 June 2026

MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2026-34
Series of 2026

TO: **ALL MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (MHEIS), SENIOR HIGH GRADUATES AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED**

SUBJECT: **DEFERRAL OF NATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE APTITUDE TEST (NaMMAT) FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027 AND INTERIM ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR MHEIs**

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 12021 or the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is vested with jurisdiction over Maritime Education and Training (MET) in the Philippines.

Relatively, notwithstanding the provisions of CHED Memorandum Order No. 7, series of 2025 which prescribes the Policies, Standards, and Guidelines for the implementation of the National Merchant Marine Aptitude Test (NaMMAT), and in view of MARINA Advisory No. 2025-39 providing for the transitory guidelines on MARINA's jurisdiction over maritime education which transfers to MARINA the full responsibility for NaMMAT administration beginning Academic Year (AY) 2026–2027, and considering further the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding its test administration, this Authority shall undertake a comprehensive review of its implementation.

Accordingly, the implementation of the NaMMAT for AY 2026-2027 is hereby **deferred**.

All Maritime Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs) are hereby directed to admit and enroll incoming students and transferees without regard to NaMMAT results. In lieu thereof, MHEIs shall utilize their respective institutional admission/entrance examinations for purposes of student screening and selection. Institutions are further enjoined to enhance the rigor, validity, and reliability of such entrance examinations to ensure alignment with program requirements, as well as applicable national and international standards for maritime education.

All concerned maritime stakeholders are hereby directed to strictly observe and comply with this Advisory until such time that further issuances are promulgated by the Administration.

For guidance and strict compliance.

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