REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

17 July 2026

MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2026-39
Series of 2026

TO : **ALL MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS (MTIS), ASSESSMENT CENTERS (ACS), AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **CONDUCT OF RANDOM UNANNOUNCED HIGH-LEVEL REGULATORY INSPECTIONS**

In accordance with the Maritime Industry Authority's (MARINA) mandate to uphold and ensure the highest standards of maritime training, assessment, and regulatory compliance, and pursuant to its powers and functions under Republic Act No. 10635, Republic Act No. 12021, otherwise known as the *Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers*, the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, and all other applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, and issuances, all Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) and Assessment Centers (ACs) are hereby informed that MARINA shall conduct **high-level random and unannounced regulatory inspections** in the exercise of its continuing oversight and enforcement functions, in addition to STCWO'S monitoring and surveillance inspections or activities.

The conduct of unannounced inspections is intended to:

1. Verify the continuous compliance of MTIs and ACs with MARINA accreditation rules, regulations, policies and other applicable requirements;
2. Detect and prevent fraudulent, irregular, or unauthorized practices that may compromise compliance with national and international standards; and
3. Develop a culture of compliance and raise the standards of training and assessment systems to a higher level.

Accordingly, duly authorized MARINA official/personnel, upon presentation of appropriate Special Order issued by the Administrator, may conduct regulatory inspections **without prior notice** during regular operating hours or while training and/or assessment activities are being conducted.

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During such inspections, authorized inspectors may, as necessary:

- Inspect training and assessment facilities, equipment, simulators, laboratories, and other relevant resources;
- Observe actual conduct of training sessions, practical exercises, and competency assessments;
- Examine records, documents, manuals, attendance sheets, assessment materials, certificates, and other relevant documents, including CCTV records and footages;
- Interview officials, instructors, assessors, trainees, candidates, faculty and staff, and other personnel; and
- Perform such other verification activities as may be necessary to determine compliance with MARINA applicable rules, regulations, policies, and accreditation requirements.

All MTIs and ACs are expected to provide full cooperation to authorized MARINA inspectors by granting access to facilities, equipment, records, documents, personnel, and activities necessary for the effective conduct of the regulatory inspection. Any refusal, obstruction, concealment of information, misrepresentation, unauthorized alteration of records and documents, denial of lawful access, or any act that impedes the conduct of a regulatory inspection shall constitute sufficient ground for the institution of appropriate administrative and regulatory action in accordance with existing laws, MARINA relevant Circulars, and due process requirements.

Any findings of deficiency, non-compliance, or violation observed during the inspection shall be addressed through the appropriate regulatory actions, including but not limited to the issuance of Notices of Deficiency, Corrective Action Requests, suspension or revocation of accreditation, or such other administrative and enforcement actions as may be warranted under existing MARINA rules and regulations.

This Advisory is issued to remind all accredited MTIs and ACs that compliance with MARINA accreditation requirements is a **continuing obligation** and must be maintained at all times. Such compliance shall not be limited to scheduled or announced audits, inspections, or other verification activities, but shall be consistently observed throughout the validity of the accreditation.

Furthermore, this Advisory serves as formal notice of this Authority for any unannounced inspections that will be conducted after this issuance whenever deemed necessary in the exercise of its statutory and regulatory functions.

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This Advisory shall take effect immediately upon issuance and shall remain in force until amended, repealed, or revoked by the undersigned.

For information, guidance and strict compliance.

SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator

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