



All Maritime Integrated Groups of Seafarers-Marino (AMIGOS-MARINO), Inc.

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OFFICERS 2008-2009

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*“To enjoy the fruits of democracy,
The citizens must guard against persons in authority spoiling the fruits...”*

We openly support PRC Chairman Nicolas Lapena (ret. Justice), PRC Commissioner Nilo Rosas and all other Board Examiners and staff of PRC who silently do what is right and proper for the betterment of the Marine Profession... we salute you Sirs!

**In behalf of the silent majority seafarers
What we ask PRC are the following:**

- Remove all illegal requirements in PRC Marine licensure and certification such as: Simulator assessment, Interim course, Management level course.
Reason: Not mandated by RA 8544, RA 8981, RA 7722. **Not** mandatory in IMO-STCW95. Costly. Depriving seafarers of their rightful employment. Open to abuse by greedy individuals.
Action: Govt. agencies must be regular in their functions: PRC for Licensure. CHED for maritime education and training. MARINA for IMO-STCW compliance. Anything else... let congress enact or amend the law. All issuances affecting the populace must first have the legal basis irrespective of its merits. The end must justify the means. PRC must recognize **In-service experience** as the primary assessment compliance of seafarers in STCW seconded by training ship experience. Only RADAR simulator is acceptable in STCW. Other simulators are **NOT** required by IMO-STCW like: Engine room simulators, bridge simulators, ship handling simulators, cargo simulators etc. Seafarers should take these Simulators **ONLY** on their own **FREE** will and **NOT** prevented in getting COC.
- Fully implement on daily basis the PRC computerized walk-in examination **WES**.
Reason: mandated by RA 8544, RA 8981. **No** to exam leakages. **No** to polluted exam questions. **No** to corrupt practices. Quicker exam cycle saves cost. The government allocated more than **P 200 million** for PRC computerization in the last five years!
- Follow strictly the well established procedure and standard in matters involving appointments to positions of Board Examiners. Consult widely before making mandatory any PRC resolution grossly affecting the marine professionals.

Reason: The failure of one Marine Board Examiner or the illegality of a PRC resolution gravely harms the profession, detrimental to the ship officers and their families, and destructive to the maritime industry and the country's economy.

FYI: 1.) The list of appointees for the Board of Marine Deck Officers today contain some names whose qualification and/or integrity are questioned by the AMIGOS-MARINO. 2.) We also challenge the legality and applicability of PRC resolutions 08-09 and 08-12 series of 2008 mandatory requiring the Management Level Course “MLC” beginning November 1, 2008. Public consultations and information dissemination by PRC failed miserably on this.

Three senate hearings were already made on MLC issue and a Senate resolution is yet to come. Surprisingly, seafarers are required by PRC marine board to take MLC months before. This creeping implementation is violating the rights of our seafarers. Last Sep. 24, 2008 the AMIGOS-MARINO personally accompanied 2/M Biantan begging PRC to release his COC without taking MLC but the board still insist. 2/M Biantan lost his employment and forced to take MLC. This is illegal and hundreds or thousands more are in the same boat. Disinformation is being propagated at sea via SSB radio by vested training providers urging seafarers to take MLC as an alternative to taking the board exam for Master and Chief Engineer. **FALSE!** Many ship officers at sea are now confused and worried that their relievers may not come by Nov. and Dec. because manning companies are hard pressed getting relieving officers forced to take MLC. Sadly, vacationing officers generally lack money to pay for their board and lodging, transport fares, and tuition fees.

If you agree with what the AMIGOS-MARINO advocates then come and be one of us. Welcome aboard! Be our member. Let's steer our ship together.

But, if you are happy with what's going on today in licensure, certification, education, training, and employment of our seafarers in general... please enlighten us what good things the AMIGOS-MARINO may have missed that you know. Maybe your ideas are more effective and agreeable to all our seafarers.

If we do not help to correct the wrongs affecting us then we should not expect good things coming to us.

Oct. 1, 2008.. press release.. The Maritime Observer.. the news arm of AMIGOS-MARINO, Inc.