



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

3rd Flr. (room 320) BPI Bldg. Escolta cor. Plaza Lacson Streets Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Tel. (63-2) 736 3768 CP 0908-6922869

AMI-PR-03-102908

OFFICERS 2008-2009

Capt. Rodolfo Estampador
Chairman
COMMA – president

Capt. Leuel Oseña
President
PMI ALUMNI – vice pres.

Capt. Reynaldo Valeros
Vice-President
CMAAP – president

Capt. Leonito Mirande
Secretary/ PRO
VMA ALUMNI – president

Capt. Lamberto Torres
Treasurer
IMDEOA – director

Capt. Nestor Vargas
Business Manager
SPI-AKSI – vice pres.

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

We openly support PRC Chairman Justice Nicolas P. Lapena Jr. (ret.), PRC Commissioner Nilo Rosas and other staffs of PRC who keep on doing what is right for the betterment of the Marine Profession... we salute you Sirs!

The sufferings:

1.0 A seafarer walked-in the Amigos-Marino office last October 3, 2008 asking enlightenment on his ordeal in getting a Marine Chief Engineer license/COC “Certificate of Competency”. He narrated how he was forced to take MLC “Management Level Course” last September 2008 by a member of the Engine Board being promised that come November 1, 2008 he will be issued a chief engineer license and COC without taking the chief engineer licensure examination.

AMIGOS-MARINO commentary: There is no truth in getting exempted from taking the Master or Chief Engineer licensure examination. R.A.

8544 clearly provides only for the OIC examination but NOT a single examination for the Management Level. The law must be amended first by congress before a single management licensure can become a reality. Another possibility is if IMO makes it an international requirement for all member states to have single examination for the management level. The law can never be amended by mere resolutions of the Marine Boards and nothing can be implemented without a force of law.

Therefore, seafarers in doubt of “MLC” may consider this Amigos-Marino, Inc. stance:

- On or after November 1, 2008, those who have not yet taken the MLC must not be forced to take MLC in renewing their licenses/ COCs. Those who want to take MLC are free to do their will. Those who were forced to take MLC and thinking of filing damage suits may call the Amigos-Marino, Inc. for legal guidance.

2.0 A BSMT applicant, who trained on board for more than a year, issued a Transcript of records and a BSMT certificate, was prevented to apply last Oct. 2, 2008 for Deck OIC board licensure examination. PRC Iloilo denied his application after finding that a few months of his apprentice year was served in a capacity as “Deck Trainee” and not as “Deck Cadet”. The applicant’s company issued a certification attesting that the company’s deck Trainee position is the equivalent of Deck Cadet. The certification was ignored by PRC Iloilo. Therefore, the seafarer lost his chances to take the examination on time as well as lost his chances to earn a living. Many other cadets or deck trainees are in similar situation.

AMIGOS-MARINO, INC. commentary:

Cadetship is a required training program for BSMT and BSMARE. CHED is responsible for the country’s Maritime Education and Training program. Therefore, cadetship is CHED’s domain. Based on the presumption of regularity of function, PRC must recognize the document output of CHED (i.e. transcript of records and BS certificate). PRC cannot question an authentic and valid CHED certificate. If irregularities are observed in the certificate then the best PRC can do is call the attention of CHED so that proper investigations can be carried out and decisions made. Any affected cadet in this condition can call the Amigos-Marino, Inc. for legal guidance.

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

Oct. 29, 2008 .. press release 003.. The Maritime Observer.. the news arm of AMIGOS-MARINO, Inc.