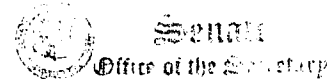


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



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SENATE
S. No. 2469

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY INTO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY AS THE PRIMARY INSTITUTION FOR THE BASIC AND CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF MARITIME PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the country's pioneer institution in maritime education, the Philippine Merchant Maritime Academy (PMMA) has produced countless master mariners, chief engineers, shipping executives, naval officers, and excellent educators in marine and maritime-related industries locally and abroad. The PMMA has become the gold standard in producing the finest Filipino merchant marine officers aligned with the international standards of ship owners and employers.

This bill seeks to expand the curriculum and course offerings of the Academy to make it more adaptable to the progressive and changing domestic and international maritime industry. Likewise, with the renaming of PMMA into the Philippine National Maritime Academy, the bill seeks to help address the funding deficit for its commercial and merchant needs, thereby leading to more equipped graduates meeting the European Maritime Safety Agency standards, ready for deployment.

In addition, the bill aims to augment the country's defense and maritime law enforcement by increasing the number of maritime officers, through additional access to the academy by increasing the number of campuses in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

With these proposed changes, it is our aim to provide more highly qualified graduates who are responsive to needs of the current situation and to encourage more Filipinos to pursue a career in the maritime industry.

It is for these reasons that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO
Senator



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine National
2 Maritime Academy Charter.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – As an archipelagic and maritime nation, it is
4 the policy of the Philippine government to:

5 (1) Utilize the country’s marine assets and resources as a backbone and
6 strategic addition to the country’s national development efforts;

7 (2) Encourage the development of a robust domestic maritime industry that
8 can support the needs of domestic and international trade;

9 (3) Develop human resource pool for maritime industry development,
10 maritime law enforcement, and national security;

11 (4) Develop and implement maritime education and training programs for
12 the basic and continuing higher education and training of maritime
13 professionals in the maritime industry, maritime law enforcement, and
14 maritime defense and security, among others; and

1 (5) Establish and maintain autonomous higher education and training
2 institutions that can cater to the education and training needs of maritime
3 professionals in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

4 **SEC. 3. Renaming.** – The Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) shall
5 be renamed as the Philippine National Maritime Academy (PNMA), to reflect its
6 transformations with a new and expanded mandate of providing holistic
7 education and training for human resource development of maritime
8 professionals and leaders in support of maritime industry development,
9 maritime law enforcement, and national security.

10 **SEC. 4. Institutional Autonomy.** – The Philippine National Maritime Academy
11 (PNMA, hereinafter referred as the “Academy”) shall enjoy institutional academy and
12 shall be outside the regulatory control of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
13 and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA): *Provided*, That the Chairperson of
14 CHED; and the Administrator of MARINA, shall be Ex- Officio members of the Board
15 of Trustees of the Academy. It shall be attached to the Department of Transportation
16 (DOTr) for policy coordination: *Provided, further*, That the Academy complies with
17 relevant and international standards.

18 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the Academy.** – The Academy shall be
19 the primary institution for the basic and continuing higher education and training of
20 maritime professionals for national development and security. It shall develop
21 education and training programs for the maritime industry, maritime law enforcement,
22 and maritime defense and security professionals. It shall have the following powers
23 and functions:

24 (1) Create and modify maritime-related certificates, diplomas, or degree
25 programs;

26 (2) Confer certificates, diplomas, or degrees related to Marine
27 Transportation, Marine Engineering, Maritime Business, and other
28 maritime- related programs such as maritime administration, port and
29 shipyard management, naval engineering, electro- technology,
30 automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous ships, and
31 digitalization;

32 (3) Create and modify graduate and postgraduate degrees in maritime
33 industry - related disciplines;

34 (4) Confer graduate and post-graduate degrees in maritime industry -
35 industry related disciplines;

36 (5) Create and implement education and training programs on maritime law
37 enforcement, environmental protection, maritime security, and
38 international relations;

- 1 (6) Create and implement Technical-Vocational education and Training
2 (TVET) courses and confer appropriate certification for the same;
- 3 (7) Undertake the conduct of marine officers' examination and assessment
4 through the Academic Board in collaboration with MARINA;
- 5 (8) Create and maintain education and training curricula responsive to the
6 needs of the end-users and stakeholders, compliant with the
7 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and
8 Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW Convention), as amended;
9 and, other regulations;
- 10 (9) Develop centers of excellence in various maritime education and training
11 disciplines;
- 12 (10) Enter into partnerships or join consortiums of education and
13 training institutions for purposes of developing and implementing
14 common education and training programs;
- 15 (11) Create the Maritime Policy and Research & Development
16 Department and other departments needed for the performance of its
17 mandate;
- 18 (12) Create and offer short training courses that may support the
19 maritime industry in terms of technical, safety, and security;
- 20 (13) Undertake academic exchanges, cross-training, coordination,
21 and cooperation for appropriate academic programs with any one or
22 more of the following education and training institutions, among others,
23 including foreign maritime education institutions:
- 24 (a) Development Academy of the Philippines
- 25 (b) University of the Philippines
- 26 (c) National Defense College of the Philippines
- 27 (d) Philippine Military Academy
- 28 (e) Philippine National Police Academy
- 29 (f) Naval Education Training and Indoctrination Command (PN)
- 30 (g) Coast Guard Education Training Command (PCG)
- 31 (h) AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command
- 32 (i) Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC)

1 (14) The Academy may engage technical consultants from local and
2 foreign maritime academic institutions or maritime industry-related
3 companies such as shipyards, port operations, fisheries, and maritime
4 software developers for maritime industry innovations;

5 (15) Receive donations and/or endowment funds necessary for the
6 fulfillment of this mandate. *Provided*, That such donations and/or
7 endowment funds shall be free from donor's tax.

8 **SEC. 6. Full Scholarship.** – All cadets, midshipmen, and other students of
9 undergraduate programs shall be granted full scholarship which includes monthly cash
10 allowance, uniforms, and other miscellaneous expense: *Provided*, That the Board of
11 Trustees shall fix the amount of financial support that will be granted to all students
12 based on the recommendation of the Superintendent: *Provided, further*, That the PNMA
13 Board of Trustees may provide scholarship benefits for students of other programs in
14 cash or in kind.

15 **SEC. 7. Board of Trustees.** – The Board of Trustees is the highest policy -
16 making body of the Academy.

17 (1) Composition. – The governance of the Academy is vested in a Board of
18 Trustees known as the "Board of Trustees of the Philippine National
19 Maritime Academy (PNMA)", hereinafter referred to as the "Board",
20 composed of:

21 (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education as
22 Chairperson;

23 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation as Co-
24 Chairperson;

25 (c) The Superintendent of the Academy as Vice Chairperson;

26 (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technological, and
27 Vocational Education of the Senate;

28 (e) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technological, and
29 Vocational Education of the House of Representatives;

30 (f) The Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority;

31 (g) The Flag Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy;

32 (h) The Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard;

33 (i) The President of the PNMA Alumni Association;

1 (j) The President of the PNMA Corps of Professors, representing all
2 personnel, to serve for a term of two (2) years;

3 (k) The President of the PNMA Student Body Organization, chosen
4 by the students, to serve for a term of one (1) year.;

5 (2) The Board Secretary. – The Board shall be assisted by a Board
6 Secretary appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the
7 Superintendent. The Board Secretary shall record the meetings and
8 shall ensure that decisions made by the Board are disseminated to all
9 officers and units of the Academy.

10 **SEC. 8. *The Superintendent.*** – The Academy shall be headed by a
11 Superintendent, who shall be in charge of the overall management and leadership of
12 the Academy. The Board shall elect and appoint the Superintendent and shall have the
13 rank of Vice-Admiral, which shall be conferred upon by the President and Commander-
14 in-Chief.

15 **SEC. 9. *Qualifications of the Superintendent.*** – The following shall be the
16 qualifications of the Superintendent:

17
18 (1) Forty (40) years old and not more than sixty- five (65) years old at the
19 time of appointment; a holder of a master's degree from a maritime-
20 related discipline, public administration, or education management;

21 (2) Graduates of the Academy with management- level certification or
22 command- level position and experience shall be given preferential
23 consideration in the selection and appointment of the Superintendent:
24 *Provided*, that graduates of the Academy who are currently serving the
25 Academy in a management and leadership position for at least three (3)
26 years will be given preference in the selection and appointment.

27 The Board may, at its discretion, provide additional qualifications for the selection and
28 appointment of the Superintendent.

29 **SEC. 10. *The Deputy Superintendents.*** – There shall be Deputy
30 Superintendents who shall assist the Superintendent.

31 (1) The Superintendent for Administration. – There shall be a Deputy
32 Superintendent for Administration appointed by the Board, who shall
33 assist the Superintendent in managing all faculty and rank-and-file
34 employees of the Academy. The Deputy Superintendent for
35 Administration shall have a rank of Rear Admiral which shall be
36 conferred by the President and Commander-in-Chief;

1 (2) The Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Training. – There shall
2 be a Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Training appointed by
3 the Board, who shall oversee the management and implementation of
4 all academic and training programs of the Academy. The Deputy
5 Superintendent for Academics and Training shall have a rank of Rear
6 Admiral which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-
7 Chief;

8 (3) The Deputy Superintendent for Research, Development, and Extension.
9 – There shall be a Deputy Superintendent for Research, Development,
10 and Extension appointed by the Board, who shall oversee defining and
11 implementing the research and extension projects of the Academy. The
12 Deputy Superintendent for Research, Development, and Extension shall
13 have a rank of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by the President
14 and Commander-in-Chief;

15 (4) The Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs. – There shall be a Deputy
16 Superintendent for Cadet Affairs appointed by the Board, who shall
17 serve as the Commandant of the cadets. The Deputy Superintendent for
18 Cadet Affairs shall have a rank of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred
19 by the President and Commander-in-Chief.

20 **SEC. 11. PNMA Satellite Campuses** – The Academy may establish satellite
21 campuses in any part of the country subject to the approval of the Board, to meet the
22 human resource requirements of the local maritime industry and the law enforcement
23 and security sector: *Provided*, That the PNMA Cagayan De Oro created by virtue of
24 Republic Act 11782 shall be under the PNMA Main Campus: *Provided, further*, That in
25 order to democratize access and entry to the Academy, the Academy shall, to the
26 extent possible, establish satellite campuses in strategic locations in Luzon, Visayas,
27 and Mindanao.

28 **SEC. 12. The Assistant Superintendents of the PNMA Satellite Campuses**
29 – The PNMA Satellite Campus shall be headed by the Assistant Superintendent who
30 shall serve as the Campus Administrator. Assistant Superintendents shall have a rank
31 of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-Chief.

32 **SEC. 13. Qualifications of the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents.** –
33 The Deputy and Assistant Superintendents shall have the same qualifications as the
34 Superintendent.

35 **SEC. 14. The Chief of Staff** – There shall be a Chief of Staff appointed by the
36 Superintendent, who shall assist the Superintendent in coordinating with the Central
37 Staff. The Chief of Staff shall have a rank of Commodore which shall be conferred by
38 the President and Commander in Chief.

1 **SEC. 15. Central Staff.** – There shall be eight (8) Central Staff, each with the
2 rank of Captain.

3 (1) PNMA 1 – Administration and Human resources

4 (2) PNMA 2 –Information, Intelligence, and Security Officer

5 (3) PNMA 3 – Operations Officer

6 (4) PNMA 4 – Finance Officer

7 (5) PNMA 5 – Procurement Officer

8 (6) PNMA 6 – Supply and Logistics Officer

9 (7) PNMA 7 – Engineering, Repairs, and Maintenance

10 (8) PNMA 8 – Plans and Programs

11 **SEC. 16. Regimental Organization**– The Academy is a Regimental Civilian
12 Uniformed Academic Unit with a military-naval rank and tradition for its Corps of
13 Officers and Faculty. The operation of the Academy shall be underpinned by the
14 principle of unity of command.

15 Appropriate uniforms shall be provided as part of the Academy’s annual uniform
16 allowance to all commissioned members of the Academy.

17 **SEC. 17. Departments and Offices.** – The Academy shall have the following
18 Departments and Offices:

19 (1) Department of Cadet Affairs (DCA);

20 (2) Department of Academic Affairs (DAA);

21 (3) Department of Shipboard Training (DST);

22 (4) Department of PNMA Fleet Management (DPFM);

23 (5) Department of Naval Science and Tactics (DNST);

24 (6) Department of Coast Guard and Maritime Law Enforcement (DCGMLE);

25 *Provided,* That the Board may create additional departments in pursuit of the
26 objective of this Act, upon recommendation of the superintendent: *Provided, further,*
27 that the Superintendent shall determine the internal structures of these departments.

28 **SEC. 18. National Security Service.** – The Commander-in-Chief through the
29 Department of National Defense shall direct the Philippine Navy, through the Naval
30 Reserve Command shall provide institutional mechanisms to mobilize graduates of the

1 Academy to help provide technical, tactical, and intelligence information to the
2 Philippine Navy in times of war or national emergency.

3 **SEC. 19. Commission to the AFP and PCG Force, and Other Maritime Law**
4 **Enforcement Units.** – All graduates of the Academy who are under the cadet program
5 of the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard shall be directly commissioned to
6 the regular force of the Philippine Navy of the Philippine Coast Guard: *Provided*, That
7 the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard shall set the annual quota of the
8 number of graduates to be integrated to the regular force of the Philippine Navy and
9 the Philippine Coast Guard: *Provided, further*, That graduates who are not originally
10 part of the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard Billet who opt to join the
11 Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, and other maritime law enforcement units
12 after graduation shall be eligible for direct commissionship to the Regular Force of the
13 AFP, PCG or other Maritime Law Enforcement Units: *Provided, even further*, That they
14 comply with all the requirements for commissionship to the regular force.

15 **SEC. 20. PNMA Training Vessel/s.** – For carrying out the purposes and
16 provisions of this Act, an initial sum of five (5) billion pesos is hereby appropriated from
17 funds in the National Treasury for the acquisition of appropriate Training Vessels:
18 *Provided*, that the Academy can enter into a multi- year contract to be financed from
19 funds to be allocated by the Congress. *Provided, further*, That the Academy may
20 commission, in coordination with MARINA, privately- owned seagoing ships for its
21 shipboard training requirements: *Provided, even further*, That the Academy may give
22 shipboard training opportunities for deserving cadets nationwide.

23 **SEC. 21. Compensation.** – Salary grades of the members of the Academy's
24 commissioned officers shall be patterned after the equivalent ranks of the AFP/PCG-
25 Naval rank to compensate and attract experienced professional merchant marine and
26 other professionals to join the ranks of the Academy with proper compensation
27 appropriate to their operational, managerial level in the international shipping industry.

28 **SEC. 22. Mandatory Government Service.** – Graduates of any merchant
29 marine course of the Academy shall serve in the government for at least four (4) years
30 accrued within 15 years from graduation through any means as identified by the Board.

31 **SEC. 23. Congressional District Billeting.** – To ensure the proportional
32 distribution throughout the country of the cadets availing the quality education and
33 opportunities in the Academy, the PNMA shall establish a system by which every
34 Congressional District is given an opportunity to send cadets.

35 **SEC. 24. Expansion of Institutional Capability.** – The Academy may re-
36 employ retired personnel or retired seafarers who have acquired expertise in their
37 respective fields to become part of the pool of Professors and lecturers under a contract
38 of service arrangement. *Provided*, That the Academy shall implement and develop a
39 Faculty Development Program.

1 **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within thirty (30) days
2 after the approval of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the rules and regulations
3 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

4 **SEC. 26. *Transitory Provisions.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval
5 of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the organizational structure of the Academy.

6 **SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.*** – Any portion or provision of this Act that is
7 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or
8 provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given
9 effect in their entirety.

10 **SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other
11 issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
12 hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

13 **SEC. 28. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper" of general circulation in the
15 Philippines.

16 ***Approved,***