

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 6439

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, originally named Escuela Nautica de Manila, is one of the oldest institutions in the Philippines. It was created by virtue of a Spanish Royal Decree issued on January 1, 1820 through the recommendation of the Spanish Consulate of Commerce. It was inaugurated on April 5, 1820 in its initial location at Intramuros, Manila.

Founded as a school for merchant marine officers, it opened classes in a building at Calle Cabildo inside the Walled City of Intramuros for some time until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1863. Since then, it was moved several times to different locations – to Calle San Juan de Letran, to Calle Palacio in 1884 and to Binondo in 1898.

Before the end of the Spanish Rule, the school was placed under the civil government. Its most distinguished alumnus at that time was Captain Pascual Ledesma who led several Filipino Officers of the Spanish Royal Navy to join the Philippine Revolution under General Emilio Aguinaldo. For his feat, he was given a rank of General and made the first Commander of the Philippine Navy.

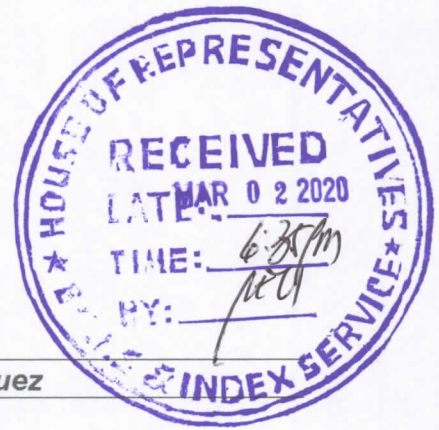
The school was temporarily closed during the Philippine Revolution. Recognizing the value and merit of the nautical school, the American authorities reopened it on December 15, 1899 and renamed it Nautical School of the Philippine Islands.

Then the school was moved to a US Navy warehouse in Calle Sta. Elena in San Nicolas. Staffed with four Americans and one Filipino, the medium of instruction was English. The Americans made immediate provisions for a vigorous administration and started the construction of a bigger building to accommodate an average enrollment of 150 cadets. All facilities, equipment, and other instructional materials were also provided by the government in an effort to raise the standard of the institution.

Later the school was renamed Philippine Nautical School (PNS), which resumed classes on June 30, 1900. PNS was classified as an insular school and was headed by US Navy commanders until it was closed in 1907 for lack of support.

In 1913, Don Ramon Fernandez, President of the Ship owner's Association during the time recommended the reopening of the school to answer the urgent need for trained merchant marine officers. It was established as a unit of the Philippine School of Arts and Trades which was located at Aroceros St., Manila, and then later moved to Roberts St., Pasay City.

Some years before the outbreak of the World War II, the school was headed by Francisco Castañeda, an experienced Master Mariner. He held the distinction of being the first Filipino Superintendent of PNS. Later, Lt. Andrada, a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis joined the school and became its first Filipino Executive Officer. The Nautical Course consisted of a two-year residency program at PNS and two-year apprenticeship at sea, in any order. With war clouds hovering the Pacific, supervision of the PNS was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of National Defense.



During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Forces did not close the PNS but rather, it was expanded into a bigger establishment that included not only training of nautical officers but also of marine engineers and ordinary seamen. This alone showed how every government realized the importance of a nautical school.

After the liberation and the early days of the Republic of the Philippines, the school was revived but still under the Department of National Defense. Captain Castañeda likewise reassumed his position as Superintendent of the PNS. It was also at this period when the nautical school was converted to a two-year residential college due to an acute need for Filipino merchant marine officer to replace their American counterparts. This condition lasted until the 1950's. Due to lack of facilities, residency requirements were also waived so that cadets were allowed to live off-campus. Aggravating this situation was the lack of legislative support, and worst, the PNS was placed under the Vocational Division of the Bureau of Public Schools instead of the Bureau of Higher Education. This resulted in the deterioration of the school's standard of maritime education and training, giving opportunities for private schools to flourish as business enterprises.

In 1963, Republic Act 3680 converted the Philippine Nautical School into the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), conferring the degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT) major in Navigation and Seamanship or in Steam Engineering and Electricity, and automatically granting the Third Mate and Fourth Marine Engineer licenses without Professional Regulation Commission Examination to its graduates. In line with this development, the residency requirements were restored thus cadets were required to live in-campus during their first, second and fourth year at the PMMA. The third year was programmed for their planned, supervised sea project-correspondence oriented apprenticeship shipboard training.

The school was relocated at Fort Bonifacio, Makati City in 1968. From then on, it was placed under the Department of Transportation and Communications. In 1997 it was placed directly under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education.

After thirty-one years of stay at Fort Bonifacio, PMMA was transferred to a 602,292 square meters lot at Naval Station in San Narciso, Zambales on February 2, 1998 pursuant to Proclamation No. 937, dated December 16, 1996 by former President Fidel V. Ramos.

It is about time that we upgrade and strengthen the PMMA in order to meet the needs of the international and domestic shipping industry.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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House Bill No. 6439

AN ACT

UPGRADING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY TO MEET THE STRATEGIC NEEDS OF THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MARITIME INDUSTRY, IN EFFECT, ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL DEFENSE SITUATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**Section 1.** The PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY in order to meet the needs of the ever changing global economy and national security, such that it no longer focuses on merchant marine trade shall be diversified with Naval, Maritime Law Enforcement and other Maritime Trade and development. Therefore, PMMA shall be engaged in the following academic engagements:

- a. Conferment of Bachelor's Degree in Marine Transportation (Major in Ship Management and minor in maritime cyber security)
- b. Conferment of Bachelor's Degree in Marine Engineering (Major in Communications, Electrical and minor in Maritime Software development)
- c. Graduates of Philippine Merchant Marine Academy who are holders of a Bachelor of Science degrees shall be exempted from taking Operational Level Assessment .
- d. Conferment of Post Graduate degrees in Ship Management, and Maritime Education
- e. Creation of Research & Development Department engaged in the Academic Development of the PMMA and the Maritime Industry in general. The said Department shall be headed by a PhD category or MNSA graduate.
- f. Full academic freedom status shall be bestowed to PMMA, wherein the Research Department shall monitor its annual academic growth and requirement with reference to world economic and shipping trends. The PMMA:
  - i. Shall be supervised by the CHED, being a maritime higher education institution, ensuring its dependence and compliance to technical world shipping requirements.
  - ii. Shall be known as the third official Service Academy for Naval and Maritime Law Enforcement Institutions and Agencies.
  - iii. Shall develop and open short training courses that may support the Maritime Industry in terms of technical, safety and security. i.e TESDA accredited short courses related to shipping, maritime engineering and marine services.
  - iv. Ensure that all students shall be full scholars ranging from billeting, haircut, laundry, meals, uniform (all forms-from athletic, daily attire, BDUs, Parade and Gala Uniforms)
  - v. Provide monthly cash allowance to all cadets depending on their equivalent PCG-AFP rank with monthly stipend rates
- g. The academic format shall meet the needs of the following government sector and the World Maritime Industry as follows:
  - i. Philippine Navy
  - ii. Philippine Coast Guard

- iii. Philippine National Police Maritime Command
  - iv. International Shipping and Maritime Industry
  - v. International and National Maritime Industry as Ship Surveyors, Shipping/Crewing Managers, Port Managers, Maritime Academic Institution Deans
  - vi. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
  - vii. NAMRIA- National Mapping Resources Information Authority
  - viii. Philippine Ports Authority
  - ix. National Coast Watch Council
  - x. The PMMA shall also cater the Basic Maritime Training and Theoretical requirements for Naval Reservist and Coast Guard Auxiliary that their respective organization requires. Board and lodging shall be shouldered by the said organizations respectively.
- h. Cross Training, coordination and cooperation for appropriate academic curriculum vis a vis shall include the following:
- i. Philippine Military Academy
  - ii. Philippine National Police Academy
  - iii. National Defense College of the Philippines
  - iv. Development Academy of the Philippines
  - v. Naval Education Training Command (PN)
  - vi. Coast Guard Education Training Command (PCG)
  - vii. AFP Education, Training and Doctrine Command
  - viii. Foreign Maritime Institutions (Asia, US and Europe)
- i. PMMA shall maintain foreign technical consultants from foreign Maritime Academic institutions and or from shipping related companies such as shipyards, maritime software developers in order to develop local maritime software in the future. These consultants may be in form of Government to Government, IMO, or Existing Foreign Technical government consultants.

**Section 2.** The PMMA shall be headed by a Superintendent with a licensed Master Mariner or Chief Marine Engineer with a Master's Degree related to Maritime Industry or Master in National Security Administration, primarily alumnus of the PMMA and appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the PMMA Board. The powers of the Superintendent shall be usually pertaining to a president of a college with regimental system.

**Section 3.** Board of Trustees. – The governance of the Academy is vested in a board, hereinafter referred to as the Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
- b. Secretary of the Department of Transportation
- c. PMMA Superintendent
- d. PMMA Alumni Association President
- e. Filipino Ship Manning Association President
- f. Filipino Ship Owners Association President
- g. Congressional Representative from Maritime Party List
- h. Congressional Representative- Chairman of Transportation
- i. Navy Flag Officer in Command
- j. Philippine Coast Guard Commandant
- k. Philippine National Police Maritime Command Director
- l. President of the Faculty Association, representing all personnel, to serve for a term of 2 years
- m. President of the Student Body Organization, chosen by the students, to serve for a term of 1 year

**Section 4.** The PMMA organization is a Regimental Civilian Armed Uniformed Academic Unit under the DOTR similar to the PCG with a military-naval rank for its Corps of Officers



and Faculty and may be integrated to the PCG or Armed Forces of the Philippines in times of war or national emergency upon the directives of the Commander in Chief.

Appropriate uniforms shall be provided for as part of Academy's annual uniform allowance to all commissioned members of the PMMA organization..

Salary grades of the members PMMA commissioned officers shall be patterned after the equivalent ranks of the AFP.

The Superintendent is the over-all administrator and academic director of the Academy with a rank of 3 Stars or Vice Admiral of the PMMA.

The Assistant Superintendent for Operations is in charge of the Academy Operations with a rank of 2 stars or Rear Admiral of the PMMA.

The Assistant Superintendent for Administration is In charge of all faculty and rank and file employees of the Academy with a rank of 2 stars or Rear Admiral of the PMMA.

The PMMA Chief of Staff shall be the traffic officer of the staff officers of the Superintendent with a rank of 1 star or Commodore of the PMMA.

The following are the Central Staff of PMMA with a rank of PMMA Captain or full colonel:

- a. PMMA – 1 or Administration and Human Resources
- b. PMMA- 2 or Information, Intelligence and Security Officer
- c. PMMA- 3 or Operations Officer ( with experience in Corporate Management, Military, Coast Guard and or Academe)
- d. PMMA – 4 or Finance Officer (with BS Accountancy experience and license)
- e. PMMA-5 or Procurement, Supply and Logistics Officer ( with background in accountancy, logistics and supply)
- f. PMMA-6 or Engineering, Repairs and Maintenance Officer (With background in Engineering) the job will include two units (Shore and Sea Surface Facilities)

#### **Section 5. Departments of the PMMA**

a. Department of the cadet/midshipmen - Commandant of Cadets (Alumnus of Service Academy or PMMA) with a rank of 1 star or PMMA Commodore. He will be in charge of the daily routine of cadets and their discipline including prevention of hazing in a regimental environment. Under him will be;

Deputy Commandant of Cadets in charge of Tactical Officers with a rank of PMMA Captain

b. Department of Academics shall be 1 star or Commodore with a minimum qualification of Master's Degree in Maritime Academics and License Merchant Marine and under him/her shall be 5 academic departments:

- a. Dean of Marine Transportation with a rank of PMMA Captain
- b. Dean of Marine Engineering with a rank of PMMA Captain
- c. Dean of Graduate/Post Studies with a rank of PMMA Captain
- d. Dean of Technical Studies (Ratings, TESDA and Training Courses) with a rank of PMMA Captain
- e. Dean of Sports Department (Sports and Martial Arts) with a rank of PMMA Captain

#### **c. Department of Shipboard Training**

Dean of Ship Board Training with a rank of PMMA Captain must be a Master Mariner. The main job is to ensure shipboard training of all cadets enrolled in the program whether organic PMMA Cadets or Private Maritime School Cadets enrolled in the program.

Assistant Dean of Shipboard Training Department for Operations shall be a licensed Merchant Marine Officer with a rank of Commander. The function is to ensure that all cadets are monitored daily for their respective vessel operations with Remote Bridge Monitoring System.



Ship Management General Manager – To operate the economic and financial aspect of the Training Ship of the PMMA. The GM shall have a rank of Commander or Captain.

d. Department of Naval Science and Tactics

The Department of Naval Science and Tactics shall focus on the development of Cadets joining the Philippine Navy.

e. Department of Coast Guard and Law Enforcement

The Department of Coast Guard and Law Enforcement shall be created to focus on the development of Cadets joining the PCG, NAMRIA and PNP maritime law enforcement group.

**Section 6.** PMMA Multi Role Training Vessel. – The PMMA shall have an MRTV or Multi Role Training Vessel and additional two 32- meters Fast Patrol Boats to be acquired from the source of the PCG's OPV 270 models from France and a turnkey project which is a Hybrid (Diesel-Electric) Vessel that shall be utilized for the following strategic maritime functions:

- a. As a Training Vessel for organic PMMA and private maritime school cadets specially from Mindanao areas.
- b. To be used as standby vessel for mass repatriation of Filipino OFWs anywhere in the world.
- c. For Environmental, Maritime and Anti-Smuggling Patrol with the PCG, Customs, BFAR and Naval officers and personnel. The PMMA shall be the carrier and operator of the vessel.
- d. For Anti Marine Pollution operations
- e. For Search and Rescue Operations
- f. For Naval Reservist and Coast Guard Auxiliary Shipboard Familiarization and Training

**Section 7.** All Congressional Districts are given the privilege to endorse a Congressional Nominee for a slot in every school year. All candidates must be endorsed by their respective Congressional Representatives.

Three (3) candidates with good academic and good moral character shall be recommended by their respective Congressman but only one will be accepted among the three (3) candidates annually upon passing the rigid academic, mental and physical examination.

The purpose of this congressional billet of cadets is to ensure that all districts will have the chance to develop their districts socially and economically.

**Section 8.** Mandatory government service and repayment scheme for failure to complete required service. – Each cadet/midshipman joining the foreign Merchant Marine will have a mandatory accumulated 2 years of service within the period of 10 years in any government service as active or reserve or auxiliary officer serving the teaching, research or technical discipline (onboard, engineering or consultancy) particularly with the Navy Reserve or as Coast Guard Auxiliary officers. Teaching at PMMA, PMA, PNPA, NDCP, NETC, CGETC and other uniformed or civilian government post like PPA, NAMRIA and others are also considered counted in the mandatory service.

Monitoring of the Alumni for their accumulated service shall be under PMMA-Shipboard Training Department. Annual reporting is also mandatory by personal appearance, e-mail or by snail mail are acceptable with status. December and June bi-annual reporting shall be imposed to all alumni in order to find out their actual employment status within the first 10 years after graduation.

Cooperation with PMMA-PMMA Alumni Association shall also be recommended with the creation of their office inside the PMMA main campus to ensure full tracking of graduates.

Graduates who will fail to complete 2 years mandatory service within 10 years from the Merchant Marine Service shall pay the full amount of scholarship on the present value after 10 years in order for the said amount to be used by the succeeding cadet/midshipmen.

Short of 2 years government service may be computed in fraction based on their number of years of service and shortage of period to be based in ratio and proportion. Basis of tuition fees and computation shall be the present actual value to ensure inflation rate is included.

None completion of 2 years and none return of tuition fees and expenses shall mean none renewal of all travel documentation for shipboard employment either local or foreign.

Civil liabilities and criminal for breach of contract shall be applied for failure to comply.

Foreign-based graduates with change of nationality or holding dual citizenships within 10 years shall report to the Philippine Embassy of their respective foreign domicile and shall comply with their responsibilities of 2 years of service or refund of scholarship benefits.

**Section 9.** Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the PMMA, the Department of Transportation and the CHED shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

**Section 10.** Separability Clause. - Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

**Section 11.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 12.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,