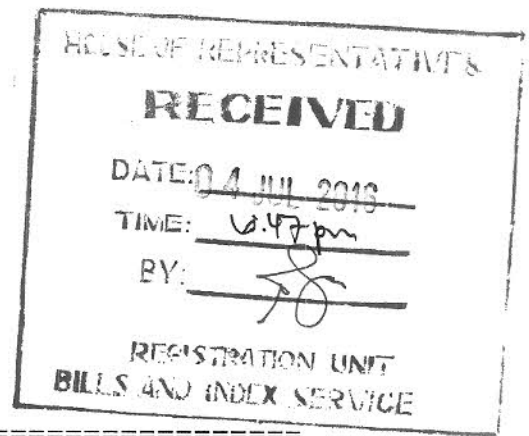


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE BILL NO. 1024

=====
Introduced by ANGKLA Party-list Representative JESULITO A. MANALO
=====

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT
MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA) IN MINDANAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE
PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY-MINDANAO CAMPUS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The skill for seafaring of our brothers in Mindanao is of national notice.

Since time immemorial, they have sailed the high seas and traded with our Asian neighbors using boats of their own design and built using indigenous materials. Their version of fast crafts, called "kumpits", are reputed even today to easily outrun their imported counterparts in our own Philippine Navy. Their innate love of the sea makes them natural students of the merchant marine, and needs only to be given the opportunity to hone and sharpen these skills at a proper institute for them to compete at an international level as Filipino global maritime professionals.

The significance of the Philippine maritime industry, which transcends both the global and national arena cannot be overemphasized. Foremost, 90% of world trade is still reliant in international shipping. This means that almost all the food we eat, clothes we wear, the things we buy, use, own, in one way or another, were shipped on board vessels before they got to us. Shipping clearly moves the world. Corollary to this, our Filipino seafarers play a major role in the shipping industry as a whole, with 1 out of 4 seafarers onboard international vessel being Filipinos, thus comprising about 30% of the total global maritime professionals in the world.

In a national scale, our Filipino seafarers onboard international fleets have greatly contributed to our social economic progress. Their foreign exchange remittances grow annually, notwithstanding that our seafarers comprise only 5% of the total OFWs working abroad. In fact, in 2014, their contributions amounted to USD5.6 billion out of the USD24.3 billion dollars aggregate OFW remittances or more than 20% thereof.

Surely, all these opportunities and level of importance can be well extended to our brothers in Mindanao. Thus, this bill seeks to establish a state-run maritime college in Mindanao, preferably through a campus of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, to be appropriately funded by government for its establishment and operation. Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) offers various educational and training courses solely dedicated to maritime, including its major programs for Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation and in Marine Engineering. It endeavors to provide all its graduates the skills and ability to be globally competitive maritime professionals, ready to obtain their careers in the shipping business whether here or elsewhere in the world. Records show that in both 2011 and 2012, 99% of its students were able to embark in international vessels for shipboard training. An average of 200 graduates every year is produced, with 100% finding immediate employment. Thus, these graduates are assured of good career opportunities with each of them guaranteed an average monthly income of US\$8 thousand to US\$12 thousand as they progress to become maritime officers.

Considering that at present, the entire Mindanao has no state-run maritime school offering courses in marine transportation or in marine engineering, a PMMA Campus in the island will certainly encourage the youth who dream to become Filipino global maritime professionals, but have little choice to enroll in private schools or uproot themselves in order to study in Manila or elsewhere.

The creation of a PMMA Campus in Mindanao is thus intended to address these aspirations and democratize access to maritime education and training in Mindanao. It will enhance the economic engine and bring about much-needed development to the Tri-People in the south, benefiting Muslims, Lumads, and Christian settlers alike.

More importantly, this proposed measure is an initial step towards allowing any qualified Filipino, anywhere in these thousands of our islands, the chance to embark on his own destiny upon the open seas of opportunity in his chosen maritime profession.

The passage of this bill cannot come at a more opportune time.



JESULITO A. MANALO
Party-list Representative
ANGKLA

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

Section 1. Short Title.- This Act shall be known as the "PMMA Mindanao
Campus Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.- It is the policy of the State to support and
promote the maritime industry of the Philippines. The State recognizes the
vital role of the industry to the social and economic development of the
country. Towards this end, the State shall establish an institution in Mindanao
that will offer appropriate education, training, skills and values to aspiring
Filipino seafarers to sustain their competitiveness and maintain the status of the
Philippines as the premier provider of competent and certificated seafarers in
the international seaborne trade.

Section 3. PMMA-Mindanao Campus. - There is hereby established a
campus of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy in Mindanao to be known as
the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy-Mindanao Campus which shall
hereinafter be referred to as the PMMA-Mindanao Campus.

Section 4. Curricular Offerings.- The PMMA-Mindanao Campus shall
offer the same degree programs and courses that the PMMA offers in its main
campus in Zambales. These include undergraduate and graduate degree
programs and advanced education, higher technological and professional
instruction and training in the fields of marine transportation, nautical
engineering, naval architecture, marine engineering, navigation, seamanship,
science and technology, and other courses within its area of specialization, as

the PMMA Board of Regents may deem appropriate according to its purpose and mandate.

Section 5.*The Governing Board.*- The governance of the PMMA-Mindanao Campus shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents of the PMMA Main Campus, hereinafter referred to as the Board. All policies, rules and regulations approved by the Board shall be enforced and applied to the PMMA-Mindanao Campus.

Section 6.*Powers and Duties.* - In addition to its powers and duties under Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) To fix the site in a province/city in Mindanao where the PMMA-Mindanao Campus shall be established;
- (b) To formulate the organizational, administrative, and academic programs of the PMMA-Mindanao Campus, and pursuant thereto, to designate the school's officials;
- (c) To enter into contracts and other agreements in sole representation or for the exclusive benefit of the PMMA-Mindanao Campus;
- (d) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law for the establishment, management, operation, and support of the PMMA-Mindanao Campus in order to best carry out its functions and purposes;
- (e) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer or dispose these for the benefit of the PMMA-Mindanao Campus, subject to whatever limitations, directions, or restrictions as may be set by the donors, if any;
- (f) To fix tuition fees and other necessary expenses relating to the cost of education, after due consultation with the sectors affected: *Provided, That they conform to the rules and regulations issued by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on tuition fees and miscellaneous expenses;*
- (g) To adopt and implement, as far as practicable and sustainable, a socialized scheme of tuition fees to provide greater access to education to poor but deserving students;

