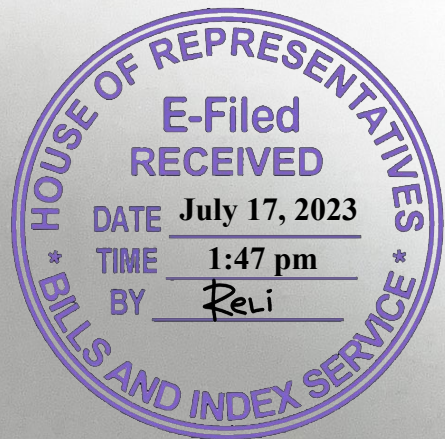


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8589



Introduced by Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

**AN ACT TRANSFORMING 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,**

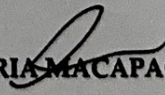
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The Philippines, as an archipelago, holds great potential to be globally competitive in the merchant marine industry. Filipinos hold important positions in the industry in workplaces all over the world. The industry provides an avenue for many Filipinos to upgrade their living conditions, and for much needed capital to flow into the Philippines. As such, it is important to ensure that merchant marine education in the country is updated and improved to help its graduates keep up with a rapidly-changing world.

This bill seeks to improve the quality of merchant marine education in the country by transforming the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy into the Philippine National Maritime Academy, expanding its course offerings by adding Maritime Business and other maritime-related programs into its curriculum, and democratizing access to the Academy by increasing the number of campuses in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, among other features.

Considering the foregoing reasons, passage of this bill is urgently sought.

Representative  **GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO**

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

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15 INTO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY AS THE PRIMARY
16 INSTITUTION FOR THE BASIC AND CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION AND
17 TRAINING OF MARITIME PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS FOR NATIONAL
18 DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,
19

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

22
23 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - *This Act shall be known as the "Philippine National Maritime*
24 *Academy Charter of 2023."*
25

26 SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - As an archipelagic and maritime nation, it is the
27 policy of the Philippine government to:
28

- 29 (1) Utilize the country's marine assets and resources as a
30 backbone and strategic addition to the country's national
31 development efforts;
32 (2) Encourage the development of a robust domestic maritime
33 industry that can support the needs of domestic and
34 international trade;
35 (3) Develop human resource pool for maritime industry
36 development, maritime law enforcement, and national
37 security;
38 (4) Develop and implement maritime education and training
39 programs for the basic and continuing higher education and
40 training of maritime professionals in the maritime industry,
41 maritime law enforcement, and maritime defense and
42 security, among others;
43 (5) Establish and maintain autonomous higher education and
44 training institutions that can cater to the education and
45 training needs of maritime professionals in the Asia Pacific
46 region and the world.

1
2 **SEC 3. Renaming.** – The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY
3 (PNMA) SHALL BE RENAMED AS THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL MARITIME
4 ACADEMY (PNMA), to reflect its transformation with a new and expanded mandate of
5 providing holistic education and training for human resource development of maritime
6 professionals and leaders in support of **maritime industry development, maritime law**
7 **enforcement, and national security.**
8

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

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

24 (1) Create and modify maritime-related certificates, diplomas, or
25 degree programs;
26

27 (2) Confer certificates, diplomas, or degrees related to Marine
28 Transportation, Marine Engineering, Maritime Business, and other
29 maritime-related programs such as maritime administration, port
30 and shipyard management, naval engineering, electro-technology,
31 automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous ships, and
32 digitalization;
33

34 (3) Create and modify graduate and postgraduate degrees in
35 maritime industry-related disciplines;
36

37 (4) Confer graduate and postgraduate degrees in maritime
38 industry-related disciplines;
39

40 (5) Create and implement education and training programs on
41 maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, maritime
42 security, and international relations;
43

44 (6) Create and implement Technical-Vocational education and
45 training (TVET) courses and confer appropriate certification for the
46 same;

1
2 (7) Undertake the conduct of marine officers' examination and
3 assessment through the Academic Board in collaboration with
4 MARINA;

5
6 (8) Create and maintain education and training curricula
7 responsive to the needs of the end-users and stakeholders, compliant
8 with the International Convention on the Standards of Training,
9 Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW
10 Convention), as amended; and, other regulations;

11
12 (9) Develop centers of excellence in various maritime education
13 and training disciplines;

14
15 (10) Enter into partnerships or join consortiums of education and
16 training institutions for purposes of developing and implementing
17 common education and training programs;

18
19 (11) Create the Maritime Policy Research & Development
20 Department and other departments needed for the performance of its
21 mandate;

22
23 (12) Create and offer short training courses that may support the
24 maritime industry in terms of technical, safety, and security;

25
26 (13) Undertake academic exchanges, cross-training, coordination,
27 and cooperation for appropriate academic programs with any one or
28 more of the following education and training institutions, among
29 others, including foreign maritime education institutions:

- 30
31 (a) Development Academy of the Philippines
32 (b) University of the Philippines
33 (c) National Defense College of the Philippines
34 (d) Philippine Military Academy
35 (e) Philippine National Police Academy
36 (f) Naval Education Training and Indoctrination
37 Command (PN)
38 (g) Coast Guard Education Training Command (PCG)
39 (h) AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command
40 (i) Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC)

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

45
46 (15) Receive donations and/or endowment funds necessary for the

1 fulfillment of this mandate: *Provided*, That such donations and/or
2 endowment funds shall be free from donor's tax.
3

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

12 **SEC 7. The Board of Trustees.** – The Board of Trustees is the highest policymaking
13 body of the Academy.
14

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

- 20 (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
21 as Chairperson
- 22 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation as Co-
23 Chairperson;
- 24 (c) The Superintendent of the Academy as Vice Chairperson;
- 25 (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical,
26 and Vocational Education of the Senate;
- 27 (e) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and
28 Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- 29 (f) The Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority;
- 30 (g) The Flag Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy;
- 31 (h) The Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard;
- 32 (i) The President of the PNMA Alumni Association;
- 33 (j) The President of the PNMA Corps of Professors,
34 representing all personnel, to serve for a term of two (2)
35 years;
- 36 (k) The President of the PNMA Student Body Organization,
37 chosen by the students, to serve for a term of one (1) year.
38

39 (2) **The Board Secretary.** – The Board shall be assisted by a Board
40 Secretary appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the
41 Superintendent. He shall record the meetings of the Board and
42 shall ensure that decisions made by the board are disseminated
43 to all officers and units of the Academy.
44

45 **SEC 8. The Superintendent.** – The Academy shall be headed by a Superintendent,
46 who shall be in charge of the overall management and leadership of the Academy. The

1 Board shall elect and appoint the Superintendent and shall have the rank of Vice Admiral,
2 which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-Chief.
3

4 **SEC 9. Qualifications of the Superintendent.** – The following shall be the
5 qualifications of the Superintendent:
6

- 7 (1) 40 years old and not more than 65 years old at the time of
8 appointment; a holder of a master's degree in the maritime-
9 related discipline, public administration, or education
10 management;
- 11 (2) Graduates of the Academy with management-level certification
12 or command-level position and experience shall be given
13 preferential consideration in the selection and appointment of
14 the Superintendent: *Provided*, that graduates of the Academy
15 who are currently serving the Academy in a management and
16 leadership position for at least three (3) years will be given
17 preference in the selection and appointment.
- 18 (3) The Board may at its discretion provide additional
19 qualifications for the selection and appointment of the
20 Superintendent.
21

22 **SEC 10. The Deputy Superintendents.** – There shall be Deputy Superintendents
23 who shall assist the Superintendent.
24

- 25 (1) The Deputy Superintendent for Administration. – There shall
26 be a Deputy Superintendent for Administration appointed by
27 the Board, who shall assist the Superintendent in managing all
28 faculty and rank-and-file employees of the Academy. The
29 Deputy Superintendent for Administration shall have the rank
30 of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by the President and
31 Commander-in-Chief;
32
- 33 (2) The Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Training. –
34 There shall be a Deputy Superintendent for Academics and
35 Training appointed by the Board, who shall oversee the
36 management and implementation of all academic and training
37 programs of the Academy. The Deputy Superintendent for
38 Academics and Training shall have the rank of Rear Admiral
39 which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-
40 Chief;
41
- 42 (3) The Deputy Superintendent for Research, Development, and
43 Extension. – There shall be a Deputy Superintendent for
44 Research, Development, and Extension appointed by the Board,
45 who shall oversee defining and implementing the research and
46 extension programs and projects of the Academy. The Deputy

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

5
6 Appropriate uniforms shall be provided as part of the Academy's annual uniform
7 allowance to all commissioned members of the Academy.

8
9 SEC 17. *Departments and Offices.* – The Academy shall have the following
10 Departments and Offices:

- 11
12 (1) Department of Cadet Affairs (DCA);
13 (2) Department of Academic Affairs (DAA);
14 (3) Department of Shipboard Training (DST);
15 (4) Department of PNMA Fleet Management (DPFM);
16 (5) Department of Naval Science and Tactics (DNST);
17 (6) Department of Coast Guard and Maritime Law Enforcement
18 (DCGMLE);
19

20 *Provided,* That the Board may create additional departments in pursuit of the
21 objective of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent: *Provided, further,*
22 that the Superintendent shall determine the internal structures of these departments.
23

24 SEC 18. *National Security Service.* – The Commander-in-Chief through the
25 Department of National Defense shall direct the Philippine Navy, through the Naval
26 Reserve Command shall provide institutional mechanisms to mobilize graduates of the
27 Academy to help provide technical, tactical, and intelligence information to the
28 Philippine Navy in times of war or national emergency.

29
30 SEC 19. *Commission to the AFP and PCG Force, and Other Maritime Law Enforcement*
31 *Units.* – All graduates of the Academy who are under the cadet program of the Philippine
32 Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard shall be directly commissioned to the regular force
33 of the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard: *Provided,* That the Philippine Navy
34 and the Philippine Coast Guard shall set the annual quota of the number of graduates to
35 be integrated to the regular force of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard:
36 *Provided, further,* That graduates who are not originally part of the Philippine Navy and
37 Philippine Coast Guard Billet who opt to join the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast
38 Guard, and other maritime law enforcement units after graduation shall be eligible for
39 direct commissionship to the Regular Force of the AFP, PCG or other Maritime Law
40 Enforcement Units: *Provided, even further,* That they comply with all the requirements for
41 commissionship to the regular force.
42

43 SEC 20. *PNMA Training Vessel or vessels.* – For carrying out the purposes and
44 provisions of this Act, an initial sum of five billion pesos is hereby appropriated from
45 funds in the National Treasury for the acquisition of an appropriate Training Vessel:
46 *Provided,* that the Academy can enter into a multi-year contract to be financed from funds

1 Superintendent for Research, Development, and Extension
2 shall have the rank of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by
3 the President and Commander-in-Chief;
4

- 5 (4) The Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs. – There shall be
6 a Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs appointed by the
7 Board, who shall serve as the Commandant of the cadets. The
8 Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs shall have the rank of
9 Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by the President and
10 Commander-in-Chief;
11

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

21 **SEC 12. The Assistant Superintendents of the PNMA Satellite Campuses.** – The PNMA
22 Satellite Campus shall be headed by the Assistant Superintendent who shall serve as the
23 Campus Administrator. Assistant Superintendents shall have the rank of Rear Admiral
24 which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-Chief.
25

26 **SEC 13. Qualifications of the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents.** – The deputy and
27 assistant superintendents shall have the same qualifications as the Superintendent.
28

29 **SEC 14. The Chief of Staff.** – There shall be a Chief of Staff appointed by the
30 Superintendent, who shall assist the Superintendent in coordinating with the Central
31 Staff. The Chief of Staff shall have the rank of Commodore which shall be conferred by
32 the President and Commander-in-Chief.
33

34 **SEC 15. Central Staff.** – There shall be eight (8) Central Staff, each with the rank of
35 Captain.
36

- 37 (1) PNMA1 – Administration and Human Resources
38 (2) PNMA2 – Information, Intelligence, and Security Officer
39 (3) PNMA3 – Operations Officer
40 (4) PNMA4 – Finance Officer
41 (5) PNMA5 – Procurement Officer
42 (6) PNMA6 – Supply and Logistics Officer
43 (7) PNMA7 – Engineering, Repairs, and Maintenance
44 (8) PNMA8 – Plans and Programs
45

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20 *Provided,* That the Board may create additional departments in pursuit of the
21 objective of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent: *Provided, further,*
22 that the Superintendent shall determine the internal structures of these departments.
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45 funds in the National Treasury for the acquisition of an appropriate Training Vessel:
46 *Provided,* that the Academy can enter into a multi-year contract to be financed from funds

1 to be allocated by the Congress. *Provided, further,* That the Academy may commission, in
2 coordination with MARINA, privately-owned seagoing ships for its shipboard training
3 requirements: *Provided, even further,* that the Academy may give shipboard training
4 opportunities for deserving cadets nationwide.
5

6 **SEC 21. Compensation.** – Salary grades of the members of the Academy's
7 commissioned officers shall be patterned after the equivalent ranks of the AFP/PCG-
8 Naval rank to compensate and attract experienced professional merchant marine and
9 other professionals to join the ranks of the Academy with proper compensation
10 appropriate to their operational, managerial level in the international shipping industry.
11

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

16 **SEC 23. Congressional District Billeting.** To ensure the proportional distribution
17 throughout the country of the cadets availing the quality education and opportunities in
18 the Academy, the PNMA shall establish a system by which every Congressional District
19 is given an opportunity to send cadets.
20

21 **SEC 24. Expansion of Institutional Capability.** – The Academy may re-employ retired
22 personnel or retired seafarers who have acquired expertise in their respective fields to
23 become part of the pool of Professors and lecturers under a contract of service
24 arrangement. *Provided,* That the Academy shall implement and develop a Faculty
25 Development Program.
26

27 **SEC 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from the
28 approval of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to
29 implement the provisions of this Act.
30

31 **SEC 26. Transitory Provision.** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this
32 Act, the Superintendent shall propose to the Board the organizational structure of the
33 Academy.
34

35 **SEC 27. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared
36 unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof
37 as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.
38

39 **SEC 28. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances,
40 or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified
41 accordingly.
42

43 **SEC 29. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
44 in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.
45

46 *Approved,*