

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1061



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

**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

The Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), one of Asia's oldest maritime institutions, has played a crucial role in producing highly skilled Filipino merchant marine officers who serve both the global shipping industry and the country's maritime security needs. However, in light of evolving global standards, regional maritime competition, and the increasing demands for integrated maritime education, national defense, and leadership development, there is a compelling need to upgrade the PMMA into a more expansive, modernized, and strategic institution.

This bill seeks to convert the PMMA into the Philippine National Maritime Academy (PNMA)—a national center of excellence for basic and continuing higher education, leadership training, and professional development in the maritime sector. The PNMA shall serve as the primary maritime institution not only for merchant marine education but also for cultivating a corps of maritime professionals dedicated to the country's economic growth, marine resources management, and national security.

The bill will establish a new governance and academic structure for the PNMA, expand its research and training capabilities, and promote closer coordination with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the Philippine Navy, and relevant international maritime bodies to meet International Maritime Organization standards.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine National Maritime Academy Charter"

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

- (1) Utilize the country's marine assets and resources as a backbone and strategic addition to the country's national development efforts;
- (2) Encourage the development of a robust domestic maritime industry that can support the needs of domestic and international trade;
- (3) Develop human resource pool for maritime industry development, maritime law enforcement, and national security;
- (4) Develop and implement maritime education and training programs for the basic and continuing higher education and training of maritime professionals in the maritime industry, maritime law enforcement, and maritime defense and security, among others; and
- (5) Establish and maintain autonomous higher education and training institutions that can cater to the education and training needs of maritime professionals in the Asia Pacific region and the world.

SECTION 3. *Renaming.* - The Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) shall be renamed as the Philippine National Maritime Academy (PNMA), to reflect its transformations with a new and expanded mandate of providing holistic education and

training for human resource development of maritime professionals and leaders in support of maritime industry development, maritime law enforcement, and national security.

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

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

- (1) Create and modify maritime-related certificates, diplomas, or degree programs;
- (2) Confer certificates, diplomas, or degrees related to Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering, Maritime Business, and other maritime- related programs such as maritime administration, port and shipyard management, naval engineering, electro- technology, automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous ships, and digitalization;
- (3) Create and modify graduate and postgraduate degrees in maritime industry-related disciplines;
- (4) Confer graduate and post-graduate degrees in maritime industry-industry related disciplines;
- (5) Create and implement education and training programs on maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, maritime security, and international relations;
- (6) Create and implement Technical-Vocational education and Training (TVET) courses and confer appropriate certification for the same;
- (7) Undertake the conduct of marine officers' examination and assessment through the Academic Board in collaboration with MARINA;
- (8) Create and maintain education and training curricula responsive to the needs of the end-users and stakeholders, compliant with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW Convention), as amended; and, other regulations;
- (9) Develop centers of excellence in various maritime education and training disciplines;
- (10) Enter into partnerships or join consortiums of education and training institutions for purposes of developing and implementing common education and training programs;
- (11) Create the Maritime Policy and Research & Development Department and other departments needed for the performance of its mandate;
- (12) Create and offer short training courses that may support the maritime industry in terms of technical, safety, and security;

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

- (a) Development Academy of the Philippines
- (b) University of the Philippines
- (c) National Defense College of the Philippines
- (d) Philippine Military Academy
- (e) Philippine National Police Academy
- (f) Naval Education Training and Indoctrination Command (PN)
- (g) Coast Guard Education Training Command (PCG)
- (h) AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command
- (i) Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC)

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

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

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

SECTION 7. *Board of Trustees.* - The Board of Trustees is the highest policy-making body of the Academy.

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

- (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation as Co-Chairperson;
- (c) The Superintendent of the Academy as Vice Chairperson;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technological, and Vocational Education of the Senate;
- (e) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technological, and Vocational Education of the House of Representatives;
- (f) The Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority;
- (g) The Flag Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy;
- (h) The Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard;
- (i) The President of the PNMA Alumni Association;
- (j) The President of the PNMA Corps of Professors, representing all personnel, to serve for a term of two (2) years;
- (k) The President of the PNMA Student Body Organization, chosen by the students, to serve for a term of one (1) year.;

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

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

SECTION 9. *Qualifications of the Superintendent.* - The following shall be the qualifications of the Superintendent:

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

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

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

SECTION 10. *The Deputy Superintendents.* - There shall be Deputy Superintendents who shall assist the Superintendent.

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

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

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

(4) The Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs. - There shall be a Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs appointed by the Board, who shall serve as the

Commandant of the cadets. The Deputy Superintendent for Cadet Affairs shall have a rank of Rear Admiral which shall be conferred by the President and Commander-in-Chief.

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

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

SECTION 13. *Qualifications of the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents.* - The Deputy and Assistant Superintendents shall have the same qualifications as the Superintendent.

SECTION 14. *The Chief of Staff* - There shall be a Chief of Staff appointed by the Superintendent, who shall assist the Superintendent in coordinating with the Central Staff. The Chief of Staff shall have a rank of Commodore which shall be conferred by the President and Commander in Chief.

SECTION 15. *Central Staff.* - There shall be eight (8) Central Staff, each with the rank of Captain.

- (1) PNMA 1 - Administration and Human resources
- (2) PNMA 2 -Information, Intelligence, and Security Officer
- (3) PNMA 3 - Operations Officer
- (4) PNMA 4 - Finance Officer
- (5) PNMA 5 - Procurement Officer
- (6) PNMA 6 - Supply and Logistics Officer
- (7) PNMA 7 - Engineering, Repairs, and Maintenance
- (8) PNMA 8 - Plans and Programs

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

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

SECTION 17. *Departments and Offices.* - The Academy shall have the following Departments and Offices:

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

- (2) Department of Academic Affairs (DAA);
- (3) Department of Shipboard Training (DST);
- (4) Department of PNMA Fleet Management (DPFM);
- (5) Department of Naval Science and Tactics (DNST);
- (6) Department of Coast Guard and Maritime Law Enforcement (DCGMLE);

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

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

SECTION 19. *Commission to the AFP and PCG Force, and Other Maritime Law Enforcement Units.* - All graduates of the Academy who are under the cadet program of the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard shall be directly commissioned to the regular force of the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Coast Guard: Provided, That the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard shall set the annual quota of the number of graduates to be integrated to the regular force of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard: Provided, further, That graduates who are not originally part of the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard Billet who opt to join the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, and other maritime law enforcement units after graduation shall be eligible for direct commissioning to the Regular Force of the AFP, PCG or other Maritime Law Enforcement Units: Provided, even further, That they comply with all the requirements for commissioning to the regular force.

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

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

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

SECTION 23. *Congressional District Billeting.* - To ensure the proportional distribution throughout the country of the cadets availing the quality education and

opportunities in the Academy, the PNMA shall establish a system by which every Congressional District is given an opportunity to send cadets.

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

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

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

SECTION 26. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 27. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 28. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,