

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 63, September 21, 2018**]

FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE AUTHORITY OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE 1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a Party to the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended (STCW Convention), which provides the internationally agreed and accepted standards governing seafarers and sets the minimum requirements for their education, training, assessment of competence, certification and watchkeeping;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 10635 established the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the Single Maritime Administration responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the STCW Convention, pursuant to the Philippines' commitments under the said Convention;

WHEREAS, being a Party to the STCW Convention, the Philippines is obligated to demonstrate strict and full compliance with its provisions to ensure the continuous recognition by the international community of STCW Certificates issued by the Philippine Government, and thereby guarantee sufficient employment opportunities for Filipino seafarers abroad:

WHEREAS, under Section 84 of RA No. 10964, or the "General Appropriations Act for FY 2018," the President is authorized to create new offices and modify the existing organizational structure of the agencies in the Executive Branch, whenever public interest so requires;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that laws are faithfully executed;

NOW, THEREFORE , I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Strengthening of the MARINA as the Single Maritime Administration. The authority of MARINA, as the Single Maritime Administration, shall be strengthened to enable it to take all necessary steps and strategies, consistent with its mandate, to ensure that the obligations of the Philippines under the STCW Convention are faithfully, effectively and fully complied with, and to establish systems and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the well-being of the seafarers thereby ensuring their professionalism and competitiveness, both in local and international trade.