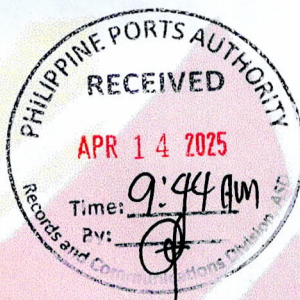


APR 14 2025



PPA OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM ORDER

NO. 002
Series of 2025

TO : The Acting Port Manager, PMO Eastern Leyte/Samar
Tacloban Harbor Pilots Association
Shipping Companies/Agents
Others Concerned

SUBJECT : FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
OF THE EXEMPTION FROM MANDATORY PILOTAGE FOR
VESSELS BELOW 500 GT IN THE SAN JUANICO STRAIT
AND JANABATAS CHANNEL

In continuation of PPA Operations Memorandum Order (OMO) No. 001, series of 2025, the temporary suspension of the exemption from mandatory pilotage for vessels below 500 Gross Tonnage (GT) transiting the San Juanico Strait and Janabatas Channel is hereby **extended for an additional thirty (30) days**.

RATIONALE:

1. Ongoing Consultations and Incomplete Stakeholder Feedback: The initial thirty (30)-day period proved insufficient to complete meaningful public consultations and receive comprehensive feedback from all affected stakeholders, including small vessel operators and community-based shipping services.
2. Pending Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Assessment: The formal assessment requested from the PCG regarding the navigational risks in the San Juanico Strait and Janabatas Channel - specifically on strong currents, shallow areas, and vessel maneuverability - has not yet been submitted. A prudent extension will allow PPA to factor in these findings.
3. Continued Navigational Risks: Conditions in the subject maritime passages remain inherently hazardous. The presence of strong tidal currents, rocky obstructions, and narrow clearances under the San Juanico Bridge necessitate sustained professional pilotage to ensure maritime safety and protect critical infrastructure.
4. Prevention of Potential Incidents: While the temporary measure has so far prevented major incidents, an extended enforcement period will allow

continued monitoring to evaluate the long-term efficacy of mandatory pilotage in minimizing risk.

5. Alignment with Maritime Best Practices: As seen in global precedents, such as the Baltimore bridge incident, extending precautionary measures while assessments are pending is aligned with international best practices in maritime safety management.

DIRECTIVES:

All vessels, regardless of tonnage, must continue to engage a MARINA-licensed harbor pilot duly appointed by PPA when transiting the San Juanico Strait and Janabatas Channel during this extension period.

PMO Eastern Leyte/Samar shall:

- Ensure continued strict enforcement of this directive;
- Submit incident and compliance reports to the Port Operations and Services Department (POSD); and
- Assist in the facilitation of stakeholder engagements and PCG coordination.

EFFECTIVITY & REVIEW:

This Order shall take effect immediately upon issuance and shall remain in force for an additional thirty (30) days from the expiration of the previous Order, unless earlier revoked or extended.

Final recommendations shall be issued following the conclusion of the extended consultation and assessment period.

For strict compliance.


MARK JON S. PALOMAR
AGM for Operations