Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 733

Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representatives
SANDRO L. GONZALEZ
and MACNEIL M. LUSOTAN

RESOLUTION
URGING CONGRESS TO FORM A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UNDER
THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO FORMULATE A
LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING THE STATE
OF PHILIPPINE MARITIME SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH
THE STCW AND OTHER CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to the International Convention on Standards of
Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers of 1978, as amended (STCW
Convention), which establishes a set of internationally accepted standards on the training,
assessment, certification, and watchkeeping for seafarers;

WHEREAS, the MARINA, in coordination with CHED, is mandated to evaluate and
inspect all maritime higher education institutions to ensure that the maritime higher
education programs being offered by said institutions comply with the minimum standards
set under the STCW Convention;

WHEREAS, the STCW Convention allows member-states to audit the compliance of
other parties to the convention, and the Philippines will undergo the eighth inspection of
EMSA from 24 February to 13 March 2020 to assess the country’s level of compliance in
implementing the STCW Convention, with Singapore expressing the intention to conduct
a similar audit this year, and the International Maritime Organization also scheduled to
conduct its own audit next year on our compliance with various maritime conventions;

WHEREAS, failing the EMSA inspection and assessment may result in the withdrawal of
recognition of our 80,000 strong Filipino seafarers’ certificates by the European Union
member countries and consequently the non-hiring of Filipino seafarers in European flag
ships, with similar consequences for failure in other audits;

WHEREAS, the economic benefits that the seafarers continuously contribute to the
country, particularly through their dollar remittances, comprise at least 20% of the total
annual dollar remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), amounting to 5.572 billion
dollars in 2016, 5.870 billion dollars in 2017 and 6.139 billion dollars in 2018, benefits
which will be endangered if Filipino seafarers develop a reputation as inadequately
prepared due to perceived deficiencies of its maritime education system;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that Congress form a Technical Working Group in the Committee on Transportation which will convene regulatory agencies, maritime institutions, and other stakeholders to formulate a clear set of standards for compliance with the STCW Convention for all audits by other parties, and to provide budgetary assistance to regulatory agencies, if necessary, to ensure this compliance.

Adopted,

SANDRO L. GONZALEZ  
Representative  
MARINO Party-list

MACNEILL M. LUSOTAN  
Representative  
MARINO Party-list