



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 71
Series of 2017

SUBJECT: LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATION OF NEW BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARINE ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994" and by virtue of Commission en banc Resolution No. 654-2017 dated August 29, 2017, the moratorium on the operation of new Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT) and Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering (BSMarE) Programs is hereby lifted by the Commission effective Academic Year 2018-2019.

I. Background and Rationale

Per RA 7722, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is mandated to set minimum standards for higher education programs without abridging the curricular freedom of universities and colleges except for minimum unit requirements as may be determined by the Commission and specific professional subjects as may be stipulated by various licensing entities. CHED Administrative Order (CAO) No. 1, series of 2014 provides the revised Guidelines in the formulation of CHED Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSGs) of baccalaureate level academic programs to hew more closely to the Constitutional provision of academic freedom in all institutions of higher learning and Section 13 of RA 7722. CHED Memorandum Order No. 46 Series of 2012 advocates the shift to learning competency-based policies, standards and guidelines for higher education programs as well as outcomes-based quality assurance, among others. Furthermore, the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended sets the global learning competency-based standards for maritime education and training.

It can be noted that the Commission en banc Resolution No. 386-216 dated 6 June 2016 approved the conduct of a public hearing on the proposed policy on conditions for the lifting of the moratorium on the operation of new BSMT and BSMarE programs and Resolution No. 783-2016 dated 26 September 2016 approved the lifting of the moratorium under strict conditions in 2018 or two years after the public hearing on the draft policy - in response to the concerns of existing higher education institutions.

In 1988, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) - Bureau of Higher Education, the precursor of the Commission on Higher Education, listed 57 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) operating maritime degree programs. From 1991 to 1994 - the year CHED was created by law—the number of such institutions ballooned to about 120 in light of the DECS "free enterprise" policy which underlay the liberal grant of permits for programs of higher education institutions on the

