

## **Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Maritime Safety Improvement Project-2**

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### **Criteria-1 (RELEVANCE)**

The development strategies for the transportation sector as contained in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP): 1993 - 1998 gave first priority to securing safe transportation and set the objective of enhancing the safety plan concerning marine, air and road transportation. For which reason, the MTPDP allocated 2,912 million pesos for the installation and rehabilitation of navigational aid facilities and salvage boats. This project was to improve maritime safety by installing and rehabilitating navigational aid facilities in the sea area between Manila and Cebu, which was deemed to be the top priority sea area in the above-mentioned Plan, and therefore highly important.

At the time of the appraisal, more than 200 maritime accidents occurred annually in the sea area of the Philippines. In the Republic of the Philippines: Master Plan for Marine Safety (MAPMAS), it was pointed out that although the country's navigational marks are located in needed spots, they were quite insufficient in number. The project responded to the need to ensure maritime safety, improve physical infrastructure such as navigational marks, charts, communication facilities, search and salvage boats as well as institutional improvement to address the problems of aging vessels, overloading and crew training. The "Comprehensive Plan for Navigational Aids" clearly set a target to double the average number of lighthouses along all coastlines of the nation by 2010 to facilitate safe navigation.

### **Criteria-2 (IMPACT)**

Respondents interviewed expressed that the Project has greatly contributed to the improvement and safety of maritime transportation through the installation and rehabilitation of navigational aid facilities such as lighthouses and lighted buoys to check the positions of vessels particularly under adverse weather conditions. Other respondents said that the project contributed to the revitalization of the tourism-based regional economy, as shown by the increase in the volume of transportation of passengers and cargo.

The installation of the lighthouses contributed to the improvement of community relations and business environment, as some beneficiaries pointed out, as well as facilitating the expansion of employment opportunities. Fishermen residing near the lighthouses particularly felt this as beneficial.

It was confirmed from the respondents that the implementation of the Project had no particular adverse effect on the environment such as air or marine pollution.

Boosting tourism, the newly installed lighthouses in popular bathing or diving sites on some Islands as the Apo Reef in Mindoro, Bantayan in Cebu and Balicasag in Panglao Island, Bohol have become major sightseeing and diving spots.