

ALUMNI OF BANGLADESH MARINE ACADEMY (ABMA)

(RESOLUTION NO.2)

A meeting of the Marine Academy Ex Cadets Association (ABMA), EC members along with general members, was held on 16 November 2013 at Sarina Hotel (Banani, Dhaka) & Silver Spoon Hotel (Agrabad, Chittagong), simultaneously, at 1230 hrs .

Ex Cadets from various batches, Total 28 members in Chittagong & total 16 members in Dhaka, were present in the meeting (signed sheet attached), 2 members responded via SMS/mobile, not being able to participate physically .

The Chittagong meeting was presided by Capt Anam Chowdhury (12) & the Dhaka meeting was presided by Capt Ghulam Hussain (11) . Both the house was in touch for the proceedings/development of the meeting. .

The Agenda (3 nos), subsequent discussion & the ultimate resolution were as follows :

1. Naming the Association :

The members were briefed as follows :

In the first meeting of the association (held on 24 August 2013 at Sarina Hotel, Banani, Dhaka), the name for the Bangladesh Marine Academy EX Cadets association unanimously agreed as ALUMNI OF BANGLADESH MARINE ACADEMY (ABMA) . A Committee was formed which included EC members & advisers from abroad, eg., North America, Canada, UK/Continent, Australia, Singapore/Far East & Pakistan/Karachi & all were informed, & return consent obtained . Accordingly ABMA initiated setting up formalities & went on .

From sometime, in the beginning of October 2013, mails started to come in from abroad, mainly from 5/6 Ex Cadets (namely Capt Abid, Capt Khairul Anam, Capt Ghulam Suhrawardi, Capt Fazlur Rahman, Capt Forkanul Quader, & Capt Shafiq Bhuiyan) etc) commenting on the formation of the ABMA & in particular the naming of it . The gist of the mails are as follows :

1. There was an association named JMAAA (Jaldia Marine Academy Alumni Association) initiated in 2005, registered in North America – How is the formation & relation to the JMAAA, is it parallel or making all inclusive !
2. Why we need to have a new one, we can beef up the JMAA etc !
3. Why not accept the name as JMAAA & make the apex body in Bangladesh with branches elsewhere !
4. Although JMAAA could not promulgate/interact with all corners sufficiently but JMAAA had her contribution when nothing was there .

OF ALL THE ABOVE ISSUES, NAMING ABMA AGAINST JMAAA WAS THE MAIN MATTER OF DISCUSSION OR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION !

Having had few mails on the same issue, ABMA replied once with the implications & necessities, as to why ABMA was reqd instead of JMAAA ?

JMAAA, in particular those few Ex cadets continued their pouring of E-mails in the same tone as before upon which ABMA opined that they will have a meeting soon to re-discuss

on the same issue . Consequently some of the ABMA members also started pouring mails to the contrary .

However, ABMA members, as they said, arranged for a meeting simultaneously at Dhaka & Chittagong at the same time on 16 Nov 2013 .

The meeting was attended by 44 Ex cadets in person & by 2 intimating their views .The meeting briefed the happenings to all members present & sought their opinions .

Maximum members participated in the discussion ; many who did not know JMAAA were also briefed with their contribution so far. The purpose, necessity, objective, legality, inclusiveness, representation & modus operandi of ABMA were discussed/shared in detail.

Upon prolonged discussion the house conferred/opined as follows :

- a. We all must be grateful to JMAAA for all their contribution since 2005, whatever they could do in the absence of a properly established one in Bangladesh . Salute to JMAAA .
- b. The house was not sure whether Capt Abdullah's website was thru JMAAA ; nevertheless everybody's salute to Capt S. M. Abdullah for his excellent dedicated work.
- c. The house also salutes all those who have earned name & fame for the Academy & the country, not to mention, the name of Capt Fazlur Rahman, MarEngr Zafrul Alam, MarEngr Abdul Hannan & likewise many .
- d. The house realizes the limitations of JMAAA, in particular interaction with all the EX cadets, participation in activities in Bangladesh where perhaps 80/90 pct Ex Cadets live/works, registration in North America, representation legally in Bangladesh etc .
- e. The house also realizes that Juldia was never the name of our Marine Academy & the association name should relate to the name of Bangladesh Marine Academy as it was named so from the inception of Bangladesh & ultimately gazetted also .
- f. The house painstakingly realized JMAAA's sheer constraint/inability to spread JMAAA globally in last 8 years beyond North America & Canada .
- g. The name JMAAA is unfamiliar to most/max. Ex cadets during the period of Bangladesh, they only know Bangladesh Marine Academy .
- h. The ABMA can take care of max. of its objectives & expected charters, if not all .
- i. The house feels that branches may be formed in any/all sub-sectors, as they desire, retaining the parent name & the apex body name under some combination, as suits & desirable by the branch itself .
- j. MarEngr Sakhawat intimated his support for the house decision .
- k. MarEngr C.F. Zaman suggested to have unified ABMA with all under one umbrella, with special thanks to North America & Singapore, for their excellent contribution & they be named with their existing name as chapters of the apex body .
- l. Commandant Dr Sajid Hossain was contacted earlier, he is in favor of naming Alumni with Bangladesh Marine Academy (ABMA) from the beginning & 3 of his deputy's were also present in the meeting .

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ABMA WILL CATER MOSTLY THE PURPOSE, NECESSITY, OBJECTIVE, LEGALITY, INCLUSIVENESS, REPRESENTATION ETC OF THE INTENDED ASSOCIATION & THE NAME GOES FINE WITH THE THEME & SENTIMENT, & THUS REAFFIRMED .

ABROAD SUB-SECTORS ARE EXPECTED & REQUESTED TO BE PART OF THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION ; THEY MAY OFFER THEIR INTENDED MODALITY TO

COORDINATE WITH THE CENTRAL AS THEY FEEL BEST INCLUDING NAMING THEMSELVES .

02. MARITIME UNIVERSITY :

Very sadly, it is learnt that the Maritime University bill is passed with the following main criteria :

- a. It will be fully controlled by the Navy - VC, pro-vc, dean, treasurer etc from Rear-Admiral & Commodores (Active or Retd.), & likewise .
- b. Academy will be under Maritime University & thus independent glamour is lost .
- c. The land reqd shall be taken from the existing Marine Academy & segregated .
- d. Mariners will have no priority or induction by General criteria, criteria being naval ranks

This was a big shocking surprise as there is no place for mariners at all ; it did not follow the proposed format at all & things have changed dramatically at the last moment . This have made every one very upset & all felt the urge to try & amend the same in order .

Upon serious discussion, unanimously it is decided to resort to some litigation as it is already gazetted . A committee has been formed to look into the matter immediately & see the prospect/timing of litigation . Also that all other possible avenues shall be explored . The beginning cost & expenses of the litigation, shall be met from the ABMA account, further fund has to be raised .

03. MISC ITEMS/PROPOSITIONS :

- a. The members present thanked the existing committee of the ABMA for their initiative to take the drive & expected that they will take over the reqd issues efficiently .
- b. The members requested that the abroad members/branches be brought under unified cohesion with proper coordination ; whatever branch name, they prefer/accepted by the law of the country, same to be amalgamated with the apex body, so long they desire .
- c. The abroad EC committee members & advisers are requested to assume their position for better coordination & net-working .
- d. It will be an unfair/wrong statement to try & blemish ABMA having political/individual motives like BD politics & also there is nothing fake . It is fair that every one refrain from making such comments .
- e. It is also seriously expressed that nobody is ready to see any rift for the cause of naming . Unity is of paramount importance. JMAAA advocates are sincerely urged & requested to appreciate the under current prevailing here, with grace & no hurt feeling .

Capt Habibur Rahman (10) & Capt Saydur Rahman (14), thanked the members respectively at Chittagong & Dhaka for their kind presence in the meeting .

Their being no more agenda, the meeting ended with thanks to the chair .

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