

## ***NEW CHIEF HYDROGRAPHER OF THE PHILIPPINES***



Commodore Rodolfo Marcelino Agaton  
New Chief Hydrographer of the Philippines

Commodore Rodolfo Marcelino Agaton, then still a Captain, assumed on October 21, 2002 the helm of the Philippine Hydrographic Office, as Officer –In–Charge of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Department (CGSD), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA). He replaced Commodore Renato Bersamin Feir who retired from the service after 37 years in government service. On November 15, 2002 President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo approved Agaton's appointment as Director of the CGSD with the rank of Commodore. On December 4, 2002, Commodore Agaton took his oath of office before Secretary Heherson T. Alvares of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the mother department of NAMRIA.

Like his predecessor, Commodore Agaton is a career officer of the Philippine Coast and Geodetic Survey (CGS), starting as a cadet on July 6, 1973 after finishing his mechanical engineering course from one of the country's top engineering institutes. He has attended several technical courses abroad, including Hydrographic Surveying at the former Maritime Safety Agency of Japan, and Post Graduate Course in Photogrammetry in the Netherlands. He has had extensive experience as a field survey officer, including being commanding officer of several CGS survey vessels. He was also Chief of the Survey Operations Division, and later Assistant Director of the CGSD.

As the new CGSD Director, Commodore Agaton brings with him not only his technical expertise but an exceptional dedication to public service. His strict adherence to the code of ethics for public servants, as well as his deep concern for the welfare and advancement of his fellow workers, is inspiring a new-found dynamism in the CGSD.

Commodore Agaton was born in Manila on August 25, 1949. He grew up and studied in the capital city but has his roots in the Central Luzon province of Zambales, particularly San Antonio town about 25 kilometers north of Subic Freeport. He is a dedicated head of his family of 5 and as well as a devoted son. If he has any regrets at all in assuming the directorship of the CGSD, it is that his new responsibilities would somehow take much of the time he would otherwise devote to visiting and caring for his mother from whom he draws much inspiration but who, despite her advanced age, prefers to live alone in their old family home, several blocks from Commodore Agaton's own home.

A technically competent and very caring Chief Hydrographer augurs well for smooth sailing in the Philippine hydrographic waters.