REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

Section 109 (1) (T) of the Tax Code of 1997, as amended
BIR Ruling No. VAT-137-21
VAT-
JUN 07 2022

MAMSAR CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
Macapagal Avenue, Tubod
Iligan City, 9200

Attention: **Almita D. Barug**
Vice President – Projects

Gentlemen:

This refers to your request for an exemption from value-added tax (VAT) on the importation of one (1) unit Dumb Barge, "M/V Ever Bright" from the registered owner, Pioneer Mariner SDN BHD of Malaysia.

Documents submitted disclose that MAMSAR Construction and Industrial Corporation ("MAMSAR"), with Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is a domestic corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines; that it is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under Company Registration No. that its primary purpose is "[t]o engage in general construction and other allied businesses including the construction, enlarging, repairing, removing, developing, or otherwise engaging in any work upon buildings, roads, highways, manufacturing plants, bridges, airfields, piers, docks, mines, shafts, waterworks, railroads, railway structures, all iron steel, wood, masonry and earth construction, and to make, execute, bid for and take or receive any contracts or assignment of contracts therefor, or in relation thereto, or connected therewith and to manufacture and furnish building materials and supplies connected therewith: and doing of any and all other business and contracting incidental thereto or connected therewith, and the doing and performing of any and all acts and things necessary, proper or convenient for and incidental to the furtherance and /or implementation of the purpose therein mentioned."; that it is duly accredited by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and is authorized to engage in domestic shipping business per MARINA Certification No dated January 28, 2022 which is valid until January 27, 2025; and that it is currently importing one (1) unit vessel named "M/V Ever Bright" from Pioneer Mariner SDN BHD of Malaysia, particularly described as follows:

Vessel Name	"M/V Ever Bright"
Material/Type	Dumb Barge
Flag	Malaysia
Port of Registry	Kota Kinabalu
Call Sign	Nil
Official No.	
Length Registered	52.67 Meters
Breadth Registered	15.25 Meters

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Depth Registered	3.66 Meters
Freeboard	749 MM
Class	KM
Year Built	1990
Ply Limit	Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan
GRT	767
NRT	231

In reply, please be informed that Section 109 (1) (T) of the National Internal Revenue Code (Tax Code) of 1997, as amended, provides as follows:

> *"SEC. 109. Exempt Transactions. —*
>
> *(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) hereof, the following transactions shall be exempt from the value-added tax.*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *(T) Sale, importation or lease of passenger or cargo vessels and aircraft, including engine, equipment and spare parts thereof for domestic or international transport operations;"*

In relation thereto, Section 4.109-1 (B) (1) (t) of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 16-2005, as amended, states that:

> *"SECTION 4.109-1. VAT-Exempt Transactions. —*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *(B) Exempt Transactions. —*
>
> *(1) Subject to the provisions of Subsection (2) hereof, the following transactions shall be exempt from VAT:*
>
> *xxx xxx xxx*
>
> *(t) Sale, importation or lease of passenger or cargo vessels and aircraft, including engine, equipment and spare parts thereof for domestic or international transport operations; Provided, however, that the exemption from VAT on the importation and local purchase of passenger and/or cargo vessels shall be subject to the requirements on restriction on vessel importation and mandatory vessel retirement program of Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);"*

Based on the above-cited provisions, the importation of passenger or cargo vessel destined for domestic transport operations shall be exempt from VAT. Hence, the importation by MAMSAR of one (1) unit vessel named "M/V Ever Bright" shall be exempt from VAT pursuant to Section 109 (1) (T) of the Tax Code of 1997, as amended. However, the VAT

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exemption shall be subject to the requirements on restriction on vessel importation and mandatory vessel retirement program of MARINA.[1]

This ruling is being issued on the basis of the foregoing facts as represented. However, if upon investigation, it will be disclosed that the facts are different, then this ruling shall be considered null and void.

Very truly yours,

CAESAR R. DULAY
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

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[1] Subject to presentation of the Authority to Import issued by the MARINA