

T R A N S C R I P T

of stenographic notes taken down during the scheduled meeting at Department of Labor and Employment held on September 23, 2020 at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Sec. Bello

I have a copy here, first of all, but wait I don't have enough copies, five (5) copies. This is, if you remember, you asked me to write to three embassies, Embassy of the Republic of China, Embassy of Korea, and Taiwan. They answered, they answered. So that they will-, Judge I'm just reading of part of this letter. Here,

"Dear Sec. Bello,

May this letter find you well.

I received your letter dated 15 September 2020 regarding the concerns of immediate families of the 36 missing crew members of the Panamenian Vessel M/V Gulf Livestock 1. I sympathize with what they have suffered and reported to my headquarters immediately. The Chinese side attaches great importance to this request in the spirit of friendship and international humanitarianism.

For your kind information, the China Coast Guard has already conducted rescue operations twice in relevant waters on 19 and 20 September, respectively, but unfortunately without any positive findings. Rest assured that we will continue to provide necessary assistance as requested by the Philippine side. The Coast Guards are maintaining close communications on this matter. I will update Your Honorable if there is any further progress.

Yours Sincerely

*Huang Xilia
Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines*

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Signed. I'll give you copy. There's also a letter here from the Korean Ambassador, almost the same content, and Ambassador Michael Peiyung Hsu ng Taiwan. Judge, I'll give you a copy. For the others, just share the copies. Please reproduce. We wrote the three (3) embassies of the three (3) countries and they have very positive responses. We have met Captain Ed Sareno and Jay-nel Rosales.

Chief Sareno:

I'm only a Chief mate, sir. I'm not a captain of that vessel.

Sec. Bello:

Oh. You're not yet a Captain

Chief Sareno:

Yeah, I am only a Chief Officer of that vessel.

Sec. Bello:

Ah, okay, okay. Okay. Anyway, **we met them yesterday** and then I requested if you (families) can communicate with them because that is the request of all of you that you want to talk to them. So, Ed and Jay-nel appeared to this meeting. So, now they are recovering... very lucky. **I presume the others who are still to arrive** are also lucky because imagine aside from Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Korea and China are also looking **so it's impossible that the others wouldn't be found**. Okay. So, with that whoever wants to speak, talk. Judge, do you want to? It's okay, go ahead.

Judge Sanchez:

Yes, Secretary Bello. I think I have a suggestion if they could relay the details of what happened and then after that we could ask them questions after the narration of the events, Secretary.

Sec. Bello:

Okay.

Chief Sareno:

September 2 around 1:00 o'clock in the morning when I was in my cabin, I observe the vessel list on the starboard side. And at that time, I call on the bridge through walkie talkie. I'm asking how many list do we have now? And the third officer answer, thirty (30) degrees, sir. At

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that time, I call Bosun through telephone and he instructed me that we are going to pump out in the starboard dung tank and then bring your walkie talkie. So Bosun answered, "Okay sir, I will go down." At that time, I go down also inside the accommodation through the stair. And then when I arrived at the main deck, I noticed there's a water in the main deck. And then I told Bosun, "Bro, I cannot go out because there's a water outside and I will only monitor you on the radio." And he answered me, "Okay". And then when he go down, when he arrived at the Deck 1, he told me that there's a water but he didn't mention how many meters. And then I instructed him, "Okay throw, pump out the water." And he told me, "Okay, pump out." And then when our conversation heard by the master on the bridge, "What you are going to do?" I told him that we are going to pump out the starboard dump line. "Why are you going to pump out?" I told, "Sir, to lessen the list, to less the list." And he told me, "Ah, okay then, go ahead." So that time, Bosun already pumped out the water on the main deck found on the Gate 1 and then after that estimated around, maybe five (5) minutes only the water at the Gate 1 and then Bosun told me, "Okay, finished pumped out water at the Gate 1." I told them, "Okay, next pump out the water on the dung tank." And he told me, "Okay." So, after that, we complete maybe estimated it to fifteen (15) minutes around to pump out the thirty-two (32) tons, the contents of starboard dung tank. So, after that, we finished pumped out, there's a short black out happened. And then I instructed Bosun, "Okay bro, go back, going up." And before that, before I told to go to Deck 1, I told Bosun to pass through the skip hatch the forward because we close the water tight door at the main deck which is the main door going down the lower lane, I told him, "You pass through the skip hatch on the forward." And then he followed that time. So, that's the way, the stair going down to Deck 1. And then we finished pumped out the water in the starboard dump line and there's a short black out. But just a few... when I was in the accommodation, it's just a maximum one minute at that time. Just a short black out. And then in my observation, it's back to normal because I saw the fluorescent lamp normally as I experience, it was two (2) fluorescent lamp. When emergency light only, only one (1) fluorescent lamp will light. At that time, still two (2). So, I thought it is back to normal, the light. And that time I told Bosun, "Okay, going back up, because it was just a short black out." And then at that time, I also go up to my cabin. When I arrived in my cabin, I heard by the radio coming from the master that, "All hands, wear your life jacket." So, at that time, I kept my life jacket and I go out. I want to wear it outside the accommodation. When I'm now the accommodation, I saw the waves too high and already hit off the deck generator which is above poop deck. Already hit the deck generator in the starboard side in the middle and I saw the two (2) life rafts already floating on the water. So, at that time, my head is almost of the same level up that deck generator, top of that deck generator. So, it came to my mind, I move little bit up in between third deck and fourth deck because there's a railing there

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going up. So, a little been setup for me because I want to stand outside of that railings because I decided to jump the life raft which is floating which is near but washed out happened first to me before I decided to jump. So, that's the time I fell to the water. Luckily, when I was in the water, down in the water, I thought I will die also because if this I ride in the vessel, I'm sure there's other but I'm clear from the vessel. So, that's the time, I went to water.

Sec. Bello:

So, you're using your life jacket.

Chief Sareno:

Yeah, I wear my life jacket when I'm in the water. I'm still holding that but I fixed it when I'm in the water.

Sec. Bello:

So, when you dived into the water, you are alone?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, I'm the only one.

Sec. Bello:

At that time, when you dived, where were your crew mates? Like for example, *si* Jay-nel where was he?

Chief Sareno:

I don't know but I observed, I see captain and the third officer because they were on the starboard bridge wing, starboard bridge wing but I know that it's just not Captain and 3rd mate that were there because I don't know who were with them at that time. But I saw that, Your Honor, Captain and on the starboard bridge wing. So, what I was thinking when I was on the water, if there's a rescuer tomorrow, maybe I can survive because the water is warm. My body can handle it even if it's night. But it's on the next night that I was rescued but by God's grace, still ok.

Sec. Bello:

Around what time, morning, afternoon or night, when it happened?

Chief Sareno:

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The sinking?

Sec. Bello:

When you jumped.

Chief Sareno:

Around 1 am sir.

Sec. Bello:

Ah, at dawn.

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir.

Sec. Bello:

So, when there was a temporary black out, you really can't see anything?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, really but it's just a short black out sir, maximum of one (1) minute, based on my observation

Sec. Bello:

The electricity was back?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, the electricity was back.

Sec. Bello:

If this is 1 am, and in that afternoon you are "nagkasagaran", most of them are in their cabin, maybe asleep?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir, but I don't know their opinions that time maybe they can't sleep because of the situation of the list.

Sec. Bello:

Jay-nel, what about you. What did you do?

AB Rosales:

As for me that time, around midnight sir, around 12:00 to 1:00, I was in the cabin, sir. And then I seemed to notice *na tagilid yung parilya na,*

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the thing in the starboard, in the port side. And so I changed my clothes and put on a life jacket. Later on, there was 3/E Laforga *nag aano* of life jacket and Staff Man William Mainprize, an Australian sir. The three of us. And then Engr. Laforga saw an immersion suit in the cabin. And he said, *"There, that's your immersion suit, maybe that will do"*. So I got it sir and I gave it to him. And he wore it, sir.

There's the three of us together that time on the first deck and the ship was on a list. He saw that there's already water on the poop side sir. I have a radio, sir, Third Engineer Laforga called sir, he called through my radio, he radioed. And he said, *"This is Third Engineer sir, where are you, where?"* And that time, Captain called, sir, saying *"Where are you? Come up here at the bridge. All of us are here. Come up here at the bridge."* So that time sir, we are here already at the port side, the vessel was on a list and it's difficult to *"makipag-ano"* with the winds, while were going down sir, we were holding onto, the stairway, at the center sir. It's already difficult to walk at that time because the vessel was on a list. When we went up, sir, above sir, on Deck 4, Roof Deck sir, upon getting up there, the water was also already there because, the starboard sir, the water is also already there. We can't go to the bridge so I radioed Captain, *"Sir, we're here at the roof deck, the water is already here sir. We can no longer get there at the bridge sir."* And he said, *"Okay then. You take care, you take care there."* Later on sir, the big wave was already there, so then, we, three were washed out, sir. The three of us, me with, the one Australian and Third Engineer Laforga sir. And then that time sir, when I was washed out, my foot, sir, got twisted on the railings, the hand railings of the ship. And my hand was under water. And by God's grace, I was able to manage myself and so I was able to come up, at sea level. When I was already at sea level sir, I saw a floating cow sir, already dead. I held onto that. And the later on I saw a life raft sir. I swam towards the life raft sir. It wasn't easy to climb into the life raft because of the waves. It took a long time for me in attempting, sir,

Sec. Bello:

Overtured?

AB Rosales:

It's, it's ready sir, but the life raft is high, big, you can't easily climb into it because of the waves, and the wind. The current was so strong at that time; I was just holding onto the life raft. Until I prayed that I will be able to climb into the life raft. By God's mercy, I was able to come up into the life raft, got inside. When I was already in the life raft sir, there, later on sir, it seems like my life raft was dragged sir. Because the life raft sir, it has a painter that is tied to the ship, tied. When I pulled the, when I noticed that I was being pulled and seems like, already my life

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raft sir. Maybe I have already gone far, wherever I was taken into. **And then there it started that I was being rolled over in the life raft sir until dawn, until morning because of the strong waves, and waves hitting, sir.** And then there, until it's already afternoon sir, I was no longer being turned over and over because the life raft took in water, the life raft is somehow heavy. That sir, that time, I just floated sir, awaiting rescue, sir.

Sec. Bello:

Judge.

Judge Sanchez:

Yes, Secretary, I collected the questions of the family including those of the New Zealand and Australian families. So, I collated them and then I summed it up it. So, some are my questions, some are other's, the other immediate families. Now please, me first to Chief Officer Sareno. Just to ask Chief Officer, on what level are your life boats placed and where are they positioned, even the life rafts, and how many?

Chief Sareno:

Our life boats, when were on summer draft, our free-board of fine access two (2) meters. My estimate is three (3) meters, our poop deck during summer draft, that's loaded, which means, if it's loaded. At that time maybe around four (4) meters only, the free board of our poop deck from sea level, ma'am, until poop deck, that's around four (4) meters.

Judge Sanchez:

How many, how many are the life boats Chief Sareno?

Chief Sareno:

Two, port and starboard.

Judge Sanchez:

Okay. And the life rafts, how many are life rafts?

Chief Sareno:

Well, it's 5 ma'am. Two on the port side, two on the starboard and one on... (inaudible)

Judge Sanchez:

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So, five. There are five life rafts.

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes.

Judge Sanchez:

Based on the conversation of Captain and his partner, it's just 8:00 o'clock and it's already strong. Here, the gap here (in the Philippines), I think in Japan is 9:00 o'clock, is one (1) hour ahead, right?

Chief Sareno:

Ahead. Our gap is ahead of one (1) hour.

Judge Sanchez:

Yes. So, around 9:00 p.m. in Japan, the weather is already bad. You experienced engine failure accordingly and then it was repaired and run for one hour. And then after that, it failed again. Around what time did it fail, the second around that it failed and what is... did you not talk with Captain about what next move you'll do because your engine malfunctioned?

Chief Sareno:

The first engine failure, that's around 8:00 o'clock, what I said around 7:00 to 8:00, that was fixed, and we're able to sail again. So that what's said, I saw a photo that they took of the control room, there, I was there at that time because I was ordered by sir den to help down there. So, we got a tarpaulin and we covered the control console, the console on the engine control, we covered that. So, when we were able to sail again, it happened again what was happening to us that we're listing and there we already capsized. So when we were on a list that time, no one is informing me saying "there's a failure". My observation tells me that the winds are on the port side. Whereas kung kami natakbo, ang takbo naming halos pabaliba-linga ba, port side. So that time, I only assumed that because the winds are on our port side always and the list is always on the starboard. So there, that's around 1 am, that around past 12. That's the second time already, until we capsized.

Judge Sanchez:

Okay. Based on a text message of one New Zealander to his mother, he heard that Captain is ordering to prepare the life boats. So is this true

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and as you are the designated safety officer, were you able to prepare the life boats?

Chief Sareno:

I didn't hear on the radio that there is an advice to prepare the life boats.

Judge Sanchez:

What was the first order of Captain, on the situation you were on?

Chief Sareno:

That was only really the 1st order that he "*nai-reached*" on radio, that "*All hands, wear your life jacket.*" And then there, we already rushed. And then he has a message, "*I cannot announce in PA.*" And then the following message I wasn't able to hear, ma'am. The, "*I cannot announce in PA.*" The next message, I wasn't able to pick up. *'Yun ang ano ko lang.*

Judge Sanchez:

Okay. Do you think everybody was able to wear life jackets when Captain ordered so?

Chief Sareno:

I can't say because I didn't see everyone Ma'am.

Sec. Bello:

But does the ship have ready life jackets?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, each cabin has a life jacket, at the bridge there are four, in the engine control room, there's also four.

Sec. Bello:

You have Forty-three (43), do you have Forty-three (43) life jackets?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, there really is, sir.

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Sec. Bello:

Where are the life jackets placed?

Chief Sareno:

In the cabin, there really is a designated "ano" sir and there are signages there with "lifejacket"

Sec. Bello:

If for example, of course that's 12 midnight, your other crew members were lying on bed, how far are their beds from where the lifejackets are?

Chief Sareno:

For example, for me, sir.

Sec. Bello:

Yes.

Chief Sareno:

My bed is here, the life jacket is just a bit away, it's just there. It's near. It's not far from me. **And even if there's a blackout it has neon lights, the signages indicating what to wear, and the signage "lifejacket" so it's still possible, you can still see it, it's still visible. You can still see it.**

Sec. Bello:

That's also the same for your crew mates, the distance of the life jacket?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes. It's also like that.

Sec. Bello:

And yours Jaynel, is it the same, your life jacket, is it near you?

AB Rosales:

Yes, sir. It's beside, it's the same, the life jacket and the immersion suit.

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Judge Sanchez:

During those hours, sir, your situation is in peril, did you not go to captain and suggest what you should do, like, say, abandon ship? Or the top officials, did they not talk to Captain and suggest what their next course of action be?

Chief Sareno:

I cannot *maano*, ma'am, we have no plan. But in times like that Ma'am, Captain is still in control, he isn't someone who seems to be in panic. In my point of view, he still didn't lose hope that time even if there's a list. So I won't say, like, to override his authority, seems like. Because his messages on the radio seem like he isn't still panicking.

Judge Sanchez:

But was there ever a time that you discussed with captain about stability situation for heavy maneuvering in case of those situations?

Chief Sareno:

That time, *ano naman namin na ano* but we have no discussion about his intentions. We know that there's a storm, like that. But we really had no discussion of what his intention was.

Sec. Bello:

Do you mean there's a storm when that happened?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes, sir. There's a storm sir

Sec. Bello:

The time that Captain ordered to put on life jackets, there's already a storm that time?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir, currently the wind is really strong even the waves, no matter what direction.

Captain Suarez:

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Well sir, I'll just ask. Example during dinner, of course you had dinner. What are the... of the people, disposition of the people? Do they feel the effects of the storm or just like normal or the captain, what did he say? What did he say during dinner?

Chief Sareno:

That time, we didn't have dinner together but the waves are already really strong, the winds are strong. But we **didn't have dinner together** because sometimes, I'm also busy with the *ano*. **I was just on a day off at the vessel, I have no duty at bridge. And then Captain is always monitoring, he's on the bridge always. So we had really no discussion that we were gathered as officers, met together, and talked about it. We had no discussion.**

Judge Sanchez:

On August 29, Captain emailed the shipowner that you again had a mechanical failure. Are you aware of that?

Chief Sareno:

August 29, ma'am?

Judge Sanchez:

Yes, August 29. There's an email by Captain, he sent his partner that he messaged the ship owner that there's an engine failure, you had a mechanical failure. Are you aware of that?

Chief Sareno:

I had no *naano* on August 29. On August 29 our sail was uninterrupted. Mechanical failure accordingly. I have no idea of that because Aug. 29, we had uninterrupted sail ma'am eh.

Judge Sanchez:

When you were on the water, did you witness the actual sinking of the ship?

Chief Sareno:

When I was on the water Ma'am, I still saw the vessel na_ was already really listing, *naano na*, **and then there's no more light, maximum fifteen (15) minutes maybe. But I can't always see because of the height**

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of the waves, sometimes I'm under water, sometimes on the surface. But my estimate, fifteen minutes, ma'am, and the ship is already not at sea.

Judge Sanchez:

Have you heard no shouting or have you not seen any of your crew mates because you said there's still light? Haven't you seen anyone running or shouting there?

Chief Sareno:

None ma'am because the wind is also strong in the *ano*. But I haven't seen anything nor anyone running, like that.

Judge Sanchez:

When was your last contact with the shipowner and if he is aware, are they aware of the storm and what is their advice to you?

Chief Sareno:

About the ship owner I have no *ano* ma'am. In their circular on... we had received instruction of *ano*, we are warned in the order, but there's no pressure like rushing us. Because we still had an order there and our arrival is September 4. And our order, if I'm not mistaken, about 157 tons and the charterer notified us that we still have 6 pieces on our order, so, meaning, we had no pressure because we arrived at the 4th of the month. So we are in control of the time on how will we push through the cows that were ordered. So that's it, that's for the charterer, but for the ship owner, none.

Judge Sanchez:

Okay, so you said you were at the cabin, you went back to your cabin. Why is it that with the bad weather conditions, you were at your cabin instead of maybe having the top officers communicate together with Captain regarding what should be done in that perilous situation?

Chief Sareno:

Why was I at the cabin?

Judge Sanchez:

Yes.

Chief Sareno:

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Because as for me, I also need to rest, I'm only day work ma'am. So I'm also busy with what I should do, like that. But anytime that Captain needs me, he will just call. Like when the engine failed, when they said that the control room had a problem, he called me to help the others, I was with the night watch to assist there. That's it, anytime, when Captain wants to *anuhin* me, there's no problem with that for me.

Judge Sanchez:

By the way, where did the water enter?

Chief Sareno:

That's already at our engine control room. That's not already the engine itself. That's the control of the engine.

Judge Sanchez:

Do you think, the engine failed because water entered it?

Chief Sareno:

I have no idea ma'am what's with the engine ma'am.

Judge Sanchez:

This is it, last question. In your personal opinion, with your experience and with what you saw, do you think it's worth it to continue the search and rescue? Do you think there's a big chance that they are still alive, your shipmates?

Chief Sareno:

That's it, I'm still hoping unless they are not found, their bodies, if possible search and rescue, like that *ano*, as long as the bodies are not yet found so that, it is difficult to give a conclusion if they are not yet found.

Ms. Senierez:

Question, I'm the wife of Chief Engineer Sabillena. May I ask the exact time you sent a distress signal?

Chief Sareno:

I don't have an exact time to "*maano*" because it's really only the

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captain who can send a distress signal, ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

Yes, because I have received a text message from my nephew onboard an African Vessel. They received an SOS from you around 8:00 pm that time, September 1, 8 pm. They received the SOS from Gulf Livestock 1.

Chief Sareno:

8:00 p.m., meaning that's from the start, Captain is already sending "ano". I have no idea of hat ma'am. No mention to me of that from sir.

Ms. Senierez:

Because he said, he's got gradual radio. Have you received in your gradual radio that you're asking for help that the ship is in danger? How come it cannot be a distress call that they heard as aptitude. They received your SOS.

Chief Sareno:

I have no idea of that ma'am. Sir didn't mention that to me while we sailed, after the engine failure, ma'am.

Judge Sanchez:

To sir Jay-nel, may I ask, around how many minutes from when Captain told you to come up to the bridge until the time that you were washed out? How many minutes do you think, the gap?

AB Rosales:

About three (3) to five (5) minutes perhaps ma'am.

Hon. Sanchez:

Three (3) to five (5) minutes.

AB Rosales:

Yes, five (5) minutes only. It was difficult for us to go up that time, we're heading towards the enter of the stairway because it's already submerged. Once we're already at the stairway, it's difficult to go up, we were having a hard time going up and then there, we were washed out, around 3 to 5 minutes. 31:08

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Judge Sanchez:

Five (5) minutes. But did you also see it when you resurfaced on the water? Did you see the ship sink?

AB Rosales:

No ma'am, I was underwater that time, ma'am.

Judge Sanchez:

So, so that's the last message of Captain that you should come up to the bridge because you're the only ones that they're waiting for. So our assumption is everybody is at the bridge, and only you were not still there.

AB Rosales:

Our bosun ma'am, we heard on the radio bosun saying "*sir, we're here at the port side of the 3rd deck, port side,*" said bosun, I don't know exactly how he said it, so Bosun told him, "*were here at the third deck port side.*" That's 12:50 ma'am, I was still at the first deck. So around that time we're going up because he radioed 3/E Laforga about that, that's the time when Captain said, "*Where are you? Come up here at the bridge, we're all here already.*" So we still went up but weren't able to reach the bridge because we were already washed out at the enter.

Judge Sanchez:

Why, accordingly, do you have to go to the bridge?

AB Rosales:

Nothing mentioned ma'am, that's it, come up to the bridge.

Judge Sanchez:

Because in a text message sent to me by Korpil what you said according to them was that you were called to the bridge to abandon ship? Is that right?

AB Rosales:

What he only said was come up to the bridge, ma'am.

Judge Sanchez:

He didn't say, come up to the bridge because we're going to abandon

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ship?

AB Rosales:

None ma'am. Because I was in the first deck at that time ma'am. And 3/E Laforga said, where are you, let's now go up to the bridge, sir, so there we headed up to the bridge that time ma'am.

Chief Sareno:

There's nothing mentioned that were to abandon ship already.

AB Rosales:

That's it sir.

Chief Sareno:

What he only said was come up to the bridge, because we're all here now. But he didn't say come up to the bridge because we're going to abandon ship. We heard nothing like that sir.

AB Rosales:

Yes, nothing like that, sir.

Sec. Bello:

No, when that happened that day, the announcement about the life jacket, where were you located, still far from Japan or already near?

Chief Sareno:

We passed by an island of Japan that time, around 8:00 in the morning. And then, if I am not mistake, our route from that island of Japan is going northwest, so there 10:00 o'clock. We travelled quite a distance that time because it's 1 am of the 2nd.

Sec. Bello:

Are you far from japan or already near?

Chief Sareno:

We're already far, sir.

Sec. Bello:

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Already near?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, we passed the island of Japan but the mainland of Japan, the *ano*, still far. We are like still halfway that time, sir.

Sec. Bello:

If you are going to go there again, will you know the point where you dived? Will you remember the area where you dived?

Chief Sareno:

From what I know, that has a positioning in the EPIRB sir.

Sec. Bello:

Will you remember?

Chief Sareno:

That can be traced wherever the exact position of the ship.

Sec. Bello:

So, it can be known where the vessel was lost, when it listed and according to you, lost, right?

Chief Sareno:

(nodded)

Sec Bello:

So, is it possible that you know where that is?

Chief Sareno:

If your referring to the distress of the EPIRB, from what I know that has a position ma'am, indication of position, the EPIRB of the radio beacon, usually it has a position, it has a coordinate, where was the position of the vessel when it was lost.

Sec. Bello:

So there was a search and rescue, right, and you were at the hospital, and when you were already okay, weren't you consulted by the search

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and rescue operation if you have an idea where the ship sank? No?

Chief Sareno:

No, no. From what I know sir, they *inano* that only from the EPIRB position. There's a position there indicated, there *nag ano sila*. That was where they based the search and rescue.

Sec. Bello:

You didn't, so that time when you were there, recovered, you didn't tell **my labor attaché, Ms. Estrada**. Telling her ma'am maybe you can help the rescue operation group, I know where the ship sank. You didn't say that?

Chief Sareno:

None, none. And they didn't ask about that.

Sec. Bello:

But you didn't tell them that you might know?

Chief Sareno:

No sir. My idea sir is that they have a position of that from the EPIRB. So that's what they used as basis.

Sec. Bello:

That's where they based?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, that's where they did base.

Judge Sanchez:

Do you have a statement saying, "A wave hit the ship and this caused it to list. " Is that right?

Chief Sareno:

(nodded)

Judge Sanchez:

Which side was hit by the wave, port side, starboard side, and how many minutes before it tilted to one side after hit by the wave?

Chief Sareno:

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The waves, they come from different directions. And only the wind is in the port side. That's what only seems to push the vessel, because it's strong. So that's the *ano*. So, *bumalagbag*, that's the *ano*. But as for the waves, it's from different directions already.

Captain Suarez:

Chief, first as a family, we thank you for giving an account of what happened. I'm Allan's uncle.

Chief Sareno:

Oh, I see, Allan.

Captain Suarez:

Yes. My question is, do you do drills particularly life boat drill, fire drill on board?

Chief Sareno:

Actually, we we're not able to do drills. The only thing, because Sir mentioned to be that these are ex-crew, who experienced being onboard, because the principal is not accepting first timers and Sir told me to tell the people to read about their duties and responsibilities.

Captain Suarez:

So, when was the last, in your account, when was your last boat drill, specifically, abandon ship, when was your last boat drill before the incident. Let's say one (1) week, one (1) month.

Chief Sareno:

31 the last, July 31.

Captain Suarez:

O, July 31. Okay. When you left *ano*, is it true that when you left New Zealand, in Napier, "*The vessel is already listing to be at the starboard.*"

Chief Sareno:

Listing to be at the starboard?
None sir because it's upright, our *ano*, sir.

x-----x

Captain Suarez:

So, at the time when you were, during the transit, normally your speed is eight (8) plus right, eight (8) to ten (10)? But that time when the occurrence happened, most likely because the winds are on the port side, the electricity is also at the port most likely around twelve (12) to thirteen (13) knots cruising that time, right?

Chief Sareno:

Our normal speed is twelve (12) knots, sir. But that time, we knew that there's a storm, I know we slowed down but we didn't have a discussion with captain about his intention. But from what I know we slowed down.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. So, like this, 72, 48, 36, 24, 12 and the time of the incident, what happened to the vessel. 72 hours, what's its condition, during the trip, what was its running condition, based on your observation Sareno?

Chief Sareno:

On the 29th sir, the waves are already really strong, the winds are strong, but on the port side. But that's just normal sir, the waves, rolling, like that, so for us that's just like normal. We knew that there's a low pressure at the port side. So, it's continuous, the waves, like that.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. So, on your account what can you say, your ship is in full draught the... so how is the draught during your passage?

Chief Sareno:

I cannot *ano* sir, but there's a point when we were around 1.3, but we didn't surpass summer draught at that sir.

Captain Suarez:

But at least you're in full draught? You're in full summer draught that time, aren't you?

Chief Sareno:

No.

x-----x

Captain Suarez:

So, from your estimate, from the water line to the bridge, how high is the area, your free board?

Chief Sareno:

From water line to the bridge?

Captain Suarez:

To the bridge. Approximately, even if it's *ano lang*.

Chief Sareno:

Around twenty (20) meters maybe, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Now, isn't it that your vessel is a box type vessel because it's a container ship converted into livestock carrier?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. That means that is good because the winds are on the port side?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Because the typhoon is in your port side.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Now, you said you weren't on duty?

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Meaning you have 2 third mates or 2 second mate?

Chief Sareno:

Two second mate, one third mate

Captain Suarez:

Okay. So, one of the second mates was on duty that time or third mate, on duty when the tragedy happened?

Chief Sareno:

That time, the second mate but it's third mate, when I called around past 12:00, it's third mate who answered my question asking how many degrees is the ship's list now. Third mate was the one who answered me, meaning third mate was still at the bridge.

Captain Suarez:

What time did you have an intermittent twist list?

Chief Sareno:

That's around past 12 sir.

Captain Suarez:

Already past 12.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

So, this is how it is, when you listed 30° approximately, you will see that if you will see your heeling angle, descending from 30°. When you

x-----x

get past that, that's already very dangerous. That's the capsize moment right? You will see that.

Chief Sareno:

Clinometer.

Captain Suarez:

My question, you said your ballast right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

At the time of your passage, do you have ballast, were you on full ballast that time?

Chief Sareno:

Full ballast sir except only for the after peak which has 70 tons but all ballast there is full sir.

Captain Suarez:

Oh okay. So you removed what's on the starboard in order to keep the vessel upright?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, so that instead of tilting but that's not just ballast sir, that's dung type, sir, sometimes we use the cows' dung but sometimes we're using, we're putting sea water.

Captain Suarez:

When you removed that, was your list on the starboard lessened?

Chief Sareno:

Almost no sir, maybe because of the strong winds that's my opinion, the strength of the wind.

Captain Suarez:

From the life boat deck to the bridge, how many decks are there? Two,

x-----x

three, four?

Chief Sareno:

Up to the bridge sir? The bridge is the fifth?

Captain Suarez:

Fifth deck. Because AB Rosales, according to him, they were at the roof deck. Which roof deck are you referring to? Is it above the boat deck or below the bridge, immediately below the bridge?

AB Rosales:

Yes, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Where is your master's station? Normal bridge right, so is it in the roof deck or life boat deck?

Chief Sareno:

Poop deck, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Then why, it's an emergency situation most likely on the poop deck or bridge. But in my assumption, you can't move with 30 degrees top 40 degree list, that's very difficult.

Chief Sareno:

Very difficult, that's right.

Captain Suarez:

And how strong is the wind, on your estimate?

Chief Sareno:

It's strong because that's really a storm.

Captain Suarez:

Because based on my research last night, that time it's more than 185 km/ hour.

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

That's per hour, that's really strong.

Captain Suarez:

So, that means you're already out of... (inaudible) speed of your ... (inaudible) strength of the waves. That's why you said, "*I believe the wind is the only permanently in favor but the waves come from different directions.*"

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Do you know why?

Chief Sareno:

Maybe because we're at the center.

Captain Suarez:

You're not in the center of the typhoon. You are really on the very dangerous, the most dangerous circle of the storm.

Chief Sareno:

I agree, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Because it's on the Northern Hemisphere.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

I'm curious about you why did it had to go to the point where you were there... because the center of the storm relative... (inaudible) But when I saw your position, based on analytics you weren't in that area. **You are in the most dangerous area on the eastern port. That's a mortal sin for us right, when you bring the vessel ahead of the storm especially east**

x-----x

side. Maybe you know that.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Now my question, do you have a management meeting?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, we have a meeting sir.

Captain Suarez:

At least, you, you're in part you're supposed to be, you know that because you're a member of the top four (4).

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir.

Captain Suarez:

As for me, in my case, every Saturday we do it. So, aware ka you're aware that there's a storm right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir.

Captain Suarez:

So, with that happening, didn't you suggest to Captain, like, Capt., even a simple practical question, "What's our intention?" You said nothing like that?

Chief Sareno:

Because I saw sir, he's confident in his *ano*, his decision to go on, in my mind, even if he knows that there's a storm in the area, he's still going to continue *na ano*.

Captain Suarez:

During mornings chief are you going up to the bridge even if you're off

x-----x

duty, are you going to the bridge?

Chief Sareno:

Lunch normally sir because I have a noon report.

Captain Suarez:

so you're seeing the progress of that maybe, believe me ha very confident you're tracking the storm, right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes.

Captain Suarez:

In your estimate, during that time, because I saw the circle you are on the most dangerous circle, what I mean is, you are very near there, because contact 28 is very critical. You even mentioned that you passed by the islands. Didn't you... I mean like evasive action. Didn't you talk about it, with Chief engineer, you, and Captain? Because even me, I'm confused with the. . .

Chief Sareno:

Because for me I was also confident with captain's *ano_sir*, of Captain. That he was just relax, even if he knows that there's a storm, like that. So sir was just okay, he's just cool. So in my opinion, he was confident that we can make it. That's only in my opinion.

Captain Suarez:

So, you heard nothing from him that you'll abandon ship or if he has an instruction about getting the lifeboats down, something like that?

Chief Sareno:

None, sir.

Chief Sareno:

So, what was your instinct when you saw it still on a list after pumping the dung tanks, because as said by Rosales and you also said and believe me, even I, in that situation I would hold onto my life jacket. As long as the ship is unsteady I will hold onto my life jacket. I won't wait to bring it out because it's just beside and because it has a cabinet,

x-----x

illuminated. I will hold on to it and I won't be sleeping. But you AB, you Mr. Rosales, who was your companion in that area where you were positioned?

AB Rosales:

On the first deck sir?

Captain Suarez:

Who?

AB Rosales:

Two. . . (inaudible) and the three of us ABs, and 2 staff man, sir.

Captain Suarez:

When you were on a list, you already jumped, you were on the port side right?

AB Rosales:

Yes, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Did you jump?

AB Rosales:

No, sir. We were supposed to go up the bridge sir, we're going to pass through the stairway heading to the bridge, going to the fourth deck but we were unable to get to the bridge because we were already washed out sir that's why we weren't able to reach the bridge. The three of us, sir. No matter how we struggle.

Captain Suarez:

But the life raft on which you got into you saw it immediately at the sea?

AB Rosales:

This is how it happened sir, when I was already at sea sir, it was the cow that I first held onto, the dead cow, afloat. It was the cow that I held onto. And then after how many minutes, there I saw the life raft, what I did sir, I swam until I reached the life raft.

x-----x

Captain Suarez:

So your two companions, you didn't see them again?

AB Rosales:

We we're not able to see each other again, sir.

Mrs. Olaño:

Sir, excuse *po*. Excuse me, I am Mrs. Olaño. Maybe you know Mr. Jorge Olaño because he is your cook. According to **the narration of Sir Buboy** to me, when, when we had a zoom meeting, you, Sir Jaynel, you saw Mr. Olaño when he was running.

AB Rosales:

I said nothing like that to them.

Mrs. Olaño:

It was Sir Buboy who told me that. According to Sir Buboy, "*Mrs. Olaño, he saw Mr. Olaño running.*" That's why I was so happy because you've seen him running. You didn't see him? Was there no one else from your crew that you saw?

AB Rosales:

I never mentioned to Sir Buboy that I saw Olaño.

Mrs. Olaño

Because it was Sir Buboy who told me, Mrs. Olaño your husband was seen by Jaynel running and with a companion. So, how will we, we don't know because it was you who told him that? Because he said, according to your story, you saw them running, who did you see? And said, Mr. Olaño the second cook.

AB Rosales:

What I said in **my statement** Ma'am we we're told to go up the bridge, "Sir, we're here on the third deck, we're here on the second floor". We weren't able to get to the third deck Ma'am because we didn't reach it. That was just on the radio that time ma'am.

Mrs. Olaño:

So, you didn't see Mr. Olaño?

AB Rosales:

x-----x

Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Olaño:

O, then how did Sir Buboy say that you saw him running?

AB Rosales:

I didn't tell sir Buboy that I saw them.

Mrs. Olaño:

Because based on their interview on you, you accordingly saw Olaño running, with other companions.

AB Rosales:

What I only told Sir Buboy is that, I said I heard that he was together with Bosun on the third deck.

Mrs. Olaño:

So, who were you seeing? Didn't you see anyone? Haven't you seen all of them already wearing a life jacket, if what happened to them at that time? That is a long time, sir.

AB Rosales:

Only that three of us are behind at that time because we were on the first deck and somebody told us to come up to the bridge.

Mrs. Olaño:

And what Captain said about who were already on the bridge, they were all there, meaning they were ready to jump, they were ready to get into the life boat or life raft. You have no idea of that?

AB Rosales:

I have no idea of that ma'am, what was only said is that we must go up the bridge.

Mrs. Olaño:

So, meaning they were included, drowned?

AB Rosales:

I don't know. I really have no idea ma'am.

Mrs. Olaño:

So, all of us wives, all of us, we're hoping that they are alive. Because it's still not found, the... how many life rafts are missing?

x-----x

AB Rosales:

Four.

Mrs. Olaño:

So, were still hoping that they are there or in there because according to Captain, you were the only ones whom they were waiting for there. So, us, we don't know that's why we are asking, we have no idea of everything, and it's really painful sir. You were saved while us, this. How many lives are missing sir, how many of them, it's very painful.

Ms. Senierez:

Question to Chiefmate. My husband is a Chief Engineer. So, the diagnosis, the solution in that incident when an engine failure happens, so, the coordination between the Chief Engineer and the Captain in regards of the main engine failure. Were you aware about that, that you have encountered trouble in engine? Since you experienced a black out, not only once, because it happens also when Gulf Livestock 1 had a black out before the change crew here in Manila. And then, I was also informed by my husband that when you are passing by, and it's true, this is only a clarification, when you're passing by Davao, Davao, passing by, you passed through New Zealand, you had a black out again, the Gulf Livestock 1, and it's true that the Philippine Navy was there to guide you, how often is this?

Chief Sareno:

From New Zealand, ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

Yes.

Chief Sareno:

That statement about the Philippine Navy ma'am, before that ma'am, we came from Manila ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

Okay.

Chief Sareno:

We're still heading to New Zealand that time.

Judge Sanchez:

x-----x

Mindanao right?

Captain Suarez:

Did that happen, Chief?

Chief Sareno:

That happened sir in South Mindanao only sir. I know Sir was posting that in the (Facebook) that he asked for help because we were also afraid of the pirates.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. When you left New Zealand, did you pass by Australia, or not?

Chief Sareno:

Not anymore, sir.

Captain Suarez:

So when did you have the first day of inspection in Australia?

Mrs. Fortun:

Good afternoon! Good afternoon!

Moderator:

Go ahead ma'am. Who wants to ask question over zoom? Please introduce yourself.

Mrs. Fortun:

Good afternoon! This is Mary Joy Fortun, may I speak *po*?

Moderator:

Go ahead, Mrs. Fortun.

Mrs. Fortun:

I really felt the burden of the side of the two (2) survivors. Can we like... Let's avoid, like, confronting or like we are saying so many

x-----x

opinions. Let's stick on the facts. Let's not ratify what Captain said, according to, because they are not here today and in behalf of the two survivors, let's not sound like we're accusing them, our way of questioning, let's fix it because even us here, we need facts but forcing them to explain things that they cannot explain? That's not good. Let's set aside first our questions that are opinionated. Let's look into the veracity of our questions from the facts, knowing that they were there in that experience, so fresh. And let's not force the things that we want to ask forcefully that they don't want to ask. Thank you.

Moderator:

Thank you, Mrs. Fortun, Thank you! Okay, anybody else? While we are on zoom, maybe someone wants to ask from zoom? Is there anybody else? Who are you? Just introduce yourself. Who's the one speaking? Okay, is there anyone on zoom who wants to ask questions?

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Hello. Can I speak?

Moderator:

Who was that? Who is it?

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Sister of Larry Tagala.

Moderator:

Okay Ma'am. Please introduce yourself if that's okay

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Hello. Hi. I just want to ask AB Rosales please? I'll just ask, I just want to start, I would just want to ask if my brother at that time is on duty?
Hello

Moderator:

Go ahead. Ma'am who, again, is your brother?

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

I just want to ask AB Rosales, I know that he is close to my brother, Larry, I just wanted to ask, was he on duty at that time?

x-----x

AB Rosales:

Larry Tagala, Ma'am, his duty is 4:00 to 8:00, Ma'am. He was on duty 4:00 to 8:00

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

AB Rosales? I can't hear.

Moderator:

4:00 to 8:00 of?

AB Rosales:

4:00 to 8:00, Ma'am.

Moderator:

4:00 to 8:00 of what? Afternoon? Morning?

AB Rosales:

4:00 to 9:00 in the afternoon and morning.

Moderator:

The answer Ma'am is, 4:00 to 8:00 is his duty in the afternoon and in the morning.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Oh okay. Thank you!

Moderator:

Is there any more questions?

Ms. Fortun:

Can I ask again?

Moderator:

x-----x

Go ahead, Ma'am. Just introduce yourself.

Mrs. Fortun:

Ah, this is Joy Fortun again. I have the same question. Ah, sir, where was Ronald Fortun assigned? Is it above or below? Because I really don't know.

AB Rosales:

Above Ma'am. He's assigned above, Ma'am. He's on Deck Crater.

Judge Sanchez:

Deck crater.

Mrs. Fortun:

Where was Ronald Fortun?

AB Rosales:

Crater, Ma'am, above. Deck crater.

Mrs. Fortun:

Ah okay, thank you!

Mrs. Turija:

Sir, good afternoon!

Moderator:

Okay, who is this? Who are you?

Mrs. Turija:

This is the wife of Bosun Turija.

Moderator:

Okay, wife of Bosun. Yes?

Mrs. Turija:

Good afternoon!

Moderator:

x-----x

Hello. The wife of Bosun?

Mrs. Turija:

I would just want to ask Chief mate.

Moderator:

Okay. Go ahead Ma'am.

Mrs. Turija:

I will just ask chief mate about the last time he spoke to Bosun and where was he located?

Chief Sareno:

The last time I spoke to him was when I pumped out the dung tank because I gave him an order ma'am. And that was still heard from Engineer, when Captain said, "where are you, we're all here at the bridge". Then engineer said they were at the third deck, port side.

Moderator:

Okay, Ma'am?

Mrs. Turija:

I can't hear you clearly, it's too soft.

Moderator:

Okay, please repeat Chief mate.

Mrs. Turija:

Please repeat Chief mate.

Chief Sareno:

The last time I talked to him ma'am, when we, after we finished pumping out the dung tank. And then I advised him to go up because a black out happened. There, and Jaynel heard when Sir gave an instruction, Captain said "*where are you, we're* all here." And bosun answered, because he has a radio, we're here at the third deck, port side.

Mrs. Turija:

x-----x

If that is their location, is there still a life boat there or life raft that is near?

Chief Sareno:

None ma'am, that's already the... There's also a chance of them possibly makaano outside the ship, on a life jacket or them getting into a lifeboat.

Mrs. Turija:

Is that far from the bridge, where they were, the life boat?

Chief Sareno:

Their location is at the third deck, that's a bit still far from the bridge, Ma'am, because they will still have to pass through the fourth deck, and then there, the bridge. Ext one is the bridge.

Mrs. Turija:

Okay. When they were already there, was AB Jaynel already washed out? Question for Jaynel.

AB Rosales:

Ma'am when we were still on the first deck ma'am, when we heard of the conversation of Engr. Turija and Captain, we were there going up. Bosun said that they're still on the third deck, port side, so at that time, Ma'am, we were on the first deck, they were at the third deck. While we were going up the second deck, we were already washed out. Even I have no more idea at that time, Ma'am.

Mrs. Turija:

Because I heard it before, according to Sir Buboy, you said you saw sir, Bosun Turija running.

AB Rosales:

Ma'am, I didn't say I saw them, it wasn't that way that I said it Ma'am. I heard on the radio Ma'am, that's only on the radio, Ma'am. We didn't go to the third deck, inside. First deck, we headed straight to the fourth deck. Third deck then fourth deck, they were inside the third deck ma'am, that's why we didn't see each other... (inaudible)

Mrs. Turija:

Okay. Thank you!

x-----x

Mrs. Laforga:

Good afternoon!

Moderator:

Yes. Who was that?

Mrs. Laforga:

I'm the wife of third engineer Laforga.

Moderator:

Yes. Okay, ma'am. What is your question?

Mrs. Laforga:

I just have a question for Sir Rosales.

Moderator:

Yes.

Mrs. Laforga:

If you saw Engineer Laforga wearing a life jacket sir and di you also see him when the ship was washed out?

AB Rosales:

Ah Ma'am, good afternoon! We were together, the three of us, we came from the. . . (inaudible)

Mrs. Laforga:

Not audible sir.

Moderator:

Jay-nel please speak louder.

Mrs. Laforga:

Can you please remove your face shield?

(AB Rosales removed his face shield)

x-----x

AB Rosales:

What 3rd Engineer Laforga was able to wear was the immersion suit Ma'am. That immersion suit was mine. Because when he went there, I was also curious why was he there, looking for a life jacket. Then he saw my immersion suit in my cabin ma'am. I took it and gave it to him ma'am. He was able to wear that before we went up the roof deck Ma'am.

Mrs. Laforga:

Did you see him after being washed out?

AB Rosales:

After being washed out, no more ma'am. The three of us never saw each other again.

Mrs. Laforga:

Okay. Thank you!

Moderator:

Okay then. Okay.

Mrs. Yadao:

Hello! Good afternoon! Can I ask a question?

Moderator:

Go ahead, Ma'am.

Mrs. Yadao:

This is Mrs. Gener Yadao. I'll just ask sir, if Mr. Yadao was on duty, where is Gener Yadao's duty? Hello!

Chief Sareno:

Hello. Ma'am I have no idea that time where Engineer Yadao is because if that time, no one informed me that the engine failed, so possible if it failed, they were at the engine room. But none, I didn't see him that time.

Moderator:

x-----x

Ma'am, do you have a follow up question?

Ms. Dalope:

Sir, may I ask Chief mate?

Moderator:

Wait a minute, Ma'am. Were you the one awhile back? I would just want to ask, maybe she still wants to ask some more.

Ms. Dalope:

No.

Mrs. Yadao:

Hello. I am Mrs. Yadao. Sir?

Moderator:

It's okay. Are you already okay Mrs. Yadao?

Mrs. Yadao:

What?

Moderator:

Are you done?

Mrs. Yadao:

About Sir Yadao, I just want to ask if he was on duty that time or if he is using a life jacket when you saw him?

Chief Sareno:

Ah Third Engineer Yadao also him, before, I didn't see him that time if he is using a life jacket, or I didn't see him personally in that incident.

Mrs. Yadao:

Because he has, he has pictures posted which seems like he's working but he isn't on duty. He's just using shorts and t-shirt posted, before you... I don't know if the engine is really in trouble why was he at the engine without... not in uniform?

Chief Sareno:

x-----x

The last time I saw him, when we stopped around 8 and I was lying down in my cabin. Because that's a pathway, my cabin, going to their own, so that's the last time I saw him. But that was just the start of the incident. But when the accident happened, I didn't see him already, ma'am.

Mrs. Yadao:

Thank you, Sir!

Moderator:

Okay. Thank you, Mrs. Yadao. Okay, the next one awhile back.

Ms. Dalope:

Sir, that's me.

Moderator:

Go ahead, Ma'am.

Ms. Dalope:

I want to talk to chief mate. This is Jennifer, Dalope.

Chief Sareno:

Hi Ma'am. It's okay. How are you?

Ms. Dalope:

Sir, I just want to know if you have seen my husband at that time?
(crying)

Chief Sareno:

That time of the incident ma'am, I didn't see ma'am, your husband ma'am.

Ms. Dalope:

When you were fixing the engine, did you see Cecilio there?

Chief Sareno:

At the start Ma'am, when Captain ordered me to help in covering the control room. I saw him there Ma'am, at first, around 8. But at the time

x-----x
of the accident, I didn't see him anymore.

Ms. Dalope:

Because this is how it is chiefmate, he called at lunch, he told me, he will call in the afternoon, after having dinner. But he didn't call me. So I am thinking maybe he is preparing or that he knows that something is going to happen. Because supposedly, he's calling me after meals. (crying)

Chief Sareno:

Because the last time we were together Ma'am, on the engine. When I helped in covering the engine control room. That's the last Ma'am, our first stop at around 8.

Ms. Dalope:

So meaning, he was there at that 8:00?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, he's there, Ma'am. We helped the.. the console of the engine to avoid trouble.

Ms. Dalope:

What time was the internet gone?

Chief Sareno:

I can't say, Ma'am, the time that the internet was gone.

Ms. Dalope:

Because he didn't call me from after lunch which he should be calling me after eating.

Chief Sareno:

But there's many more ma'am, maybe they had chatted on messenger. Maybe around 9 pm in the evening or there's still *naano* on the internet, there was still internet.

Ms. Dalope:

That's why that's what I'm thinking of, if he was still at the engine and

x-----x

not yet done fixing. Why was he still not done fixing? Why is he not able to chat me? Because when he is at the engine, he really wouldn't call me because there is no signal.

Chief Sareno:

Yes, that's true, Ma'am, if you're at the engine, there's really no signal of the internet there.

Ms. Dalope:

Thank you so much Chief mate. That's all.

Chief Sareno:

Thanks too, Ma'am.

Moderator:

Thanks also Mrs. Dalope. Is there anyone else who wants to ask?

Mrs. Gallardo:

There is.

Moderator:

Go ahead.

Mrs. Gallardo:

I'm Mrs. Gallardo.

Moderator:

Go ahead, Ma'am.

Mrs. Gallardo:

Ah, my question to the two, who among them saw Marlo because on September 1, his last text was he has a duty at 6 pm. So that time, he has work already... was he still working that time when the... when the.. how do we call this, the tragedy?

Chief Sareno:

I saw the....

x-----x

Mrs. Gallardo:

If anyone saw him?

Chief Sareno:

I saw Gallardo at the main deck that time when, during the listing. And then, I don't already know where they went when I was going up the bridge. That's it, I saw him Ma'am, in the main deck ma'am.

Mrs. Gallardo:

What?

Chief Sareno:

I saw him, Gallardo, ma'am, I saw him on the main deck Ma'am when the ship listed.

Mrs. Gallardo:

What, going up the bridge?

Chief Sareno:

Ah, they also have a radio, the two-night watch. Maybe they also heard the instruction of Captain, what I heard on radio. I'm sure that they also heard that. Because they were also at the main deck, it can be heard, the message will be picked up. So, in my opinion, maybe they were also at the bridge with the others, because they have a radio, Ma'am. He was a night watch that time.

Sister of Ms. Baylon:

Good afternoon!

Moderator:

Ma'am, please wait. Ma'am, please wait.

Sister of Ms. Baylon:

I'm the sister of...

Moderator:

Ma'am please wait. Let's ask Mrs. Gallardo if she is already okay? Mrs. Gallardo? Mrs. Gallardo, are you done?

x-----x

Mrs. Gallardo:

It's okay now. Thank you.

Moderator:

Okay then, okay ma'am, the next one who will ask, please ask now.

Sister of Ms. Baylon:

Hello po. I'm sorry.

Moderator:

Okay.

Sister of Ms. Baylon:

I'm a sister of William Baylon. I have a question for Sir Jaynel Rosales, since they have the same position. Sir according to you sir, the last time you saw my brother, William Baylon, he's already at the bridge. So, my question is, was he using a life jacket at that time? And I have a request sir, may you speak louder because I can't hear you clearly.

AB Rosales:

I saw him Ma'am on the first deck ma'am. Our cabin is in only one deck. That's the time when he's going up the bridge, about to have his duty ma'am. About the life jacket ma'am, we have spare life jackets on the bridge for emergency ma'am. In his cabin ma'am, there's also one there. And he's on duty, for sure he has a life jacket on the bridge Ma'am.

Sister of Mr. Baylon:

Oh so, he was on duty that time, Sir?

AB Rosales:

Yes, Ma'am.

Sister of Mr. Baylon:

Okay, sir.

Moderator:

x-----x

Thank you! Okay. Who's going to ask next?

Ms. Ramos:

Sir, this is Yna Ramos

Moderator:

Yes, Ma'am. Okay. Go ahead.

Ms. Ramos:

I would just want to ask if Lino Ramos was on duty. If Jaynel or chief mate saw him that time when the ship encountered a problem.

Chief Sareno:

Ah, on..Him, I didn't... But his duty is 8:00 to 12:00, Ma'am. So, in my opinion, maybe he's there that time ma'am, because of the difficult situation. Maybe we can't say that he went down the cabin because his duty was 8:00 to 12:00

Ms. Ramos:

Do you think he's able to wear a life jacket?

Chief Sareno:

Ah, I can't answer that if he's using a life jacket. What I only know is that there are four life jackets on the bridge and four immersion suits.

Moderator:

Do you have more questions Mrs. Ramos, Ms. Ramos?

Ms. Ramos:

Sir, you knew that there will be a storm right? Why did you go on with the voyage?

Chief Sareno:

I cannot answer that Ma'am, because for that, only Sir can really answer that. Because we had no discussion regarding the intentions of Sir, of Captain. So for me, in my opinion, seems like Sir was still confident in his decision that.. Maybe because, in my observation, that's why we still went ahead.

x-----x

Ms. Ramos:

Mr. Jay-nel, was there a chance that you've seen Lino Ramos?

AB Rosales:

None, ma'am. We didn't see each other at that time ma'am.

Ms. Ramos:

What about through radio, didn't you hear him talk?

AB Rosales:

No, as well, ma'am.

Moderator:

Is there any more questions, Ma'am?

Ms. Ramos:

It's okay now.

Moderator:

Thank you!

Ms. Cabato:

Hello.

Moderator:

Next. Who is it?

Ms. Cabato:

Ah Melody Cabato.

Moderator:

Okay, Ma'am.

Ms. Cabato:

Sister of Arnel Cabato.

Moderator:

x-----x

Go ahead, Ma'am.

Ms. Cabato:

I would just want to ask if Arnel Cabato was on duty that time?

Chief Sareno:

Ah, at the bridge because he is part of the day work ma'am, day work.

Ms. Cabato:

What?

Chief Sareno:

He's on day off, Ma'am. So meaning, he has no duty.

Ms. Cabato:

Ah, did anyone see him? Chief mate or AB Rosales, my brother Arnel Cabato?

Chief Sareno:

That time, Ma'am, I didn't see him, Ma'am.

AB Rosales:

I, too, didn't see him, Ma'am.

Ms. Cabato:

Okay. Thank you! That's all.

Moderator:

Thank you. Next. Ms. Laforga?

Mrs. Laforga:

Sir, I still have questions.

Moderator:

Okay. Go ahead.

x-----x

Mrs. Laforga:

To Sir Rosales. During those times, were you at the open area?

AB Rosales:

When we were washed out ma'am?

Mrs. Laforga:

Yes.

AB Rosales:

Yes, Ma'am. We were out of accommodation that time, ma'am. Exactly when we were out of the accommodation, water gushed coming inside that area, Ma'am, into the accommodation. Good thing we were already out Ma'am. That's why the three of us were holding onto the railings. Only the.. of the railings, were we holding to. We were close together. After that, we were washed out at that time, ma'am. Holding onto the railings didn't do and we were really carried away.

Mrs. Laforga:

Okay, Sir. Thank you!

Moderator:

Thank you! Next. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone who wants to ask on zoom?

Mrs. Payas:

Sir.

Moderator:

Who was that?

Mrs. Payas:

Sir, it's me.

Moderator:

Who was that? Please introduce yourself Ma'am.

x-----x

Mrs. Payas:

I am Jasmine Payas, wife of Andren Payas.

Moderator:

Okay.

Mrs. Payas:

I have a question for you Chief. You said.. oh, it's for you Sir Jaynel, you said that Captain radioed and ordered everyone to wear life jacket? So, that time, my husband was not on duty. Is it possible that he also heard the message of Captain?

AB Rosales:

Ah, Ma'am, the OS Ma'am, they don't have a radio. Only the OS, ma'am. The ones who have radio are the ABs, officials, and the night watch, Ma'am, they have radios. As for them, they have no radio, the OS who are at day work.

Mrs. Payas:

Can you please... I can't hear you clearly.

AB Rosales:

Oh, they don't have a radio Ma'am. They aren't holding radios, the OS who are for day work. Only the night watch has radio, Gallardo and Israel, they were the ones who had a radio because they have duty that night, Ma'am.

Mrs. Payas:

So meaning, it's possible that they didn't hear the instruction?

AB Rosales:

Yes, ma'am. But probably each one of us were aware of that because of the list, ma'am.

Mrs. Payas:

Sir, we're looking at the picture... (inaudible) water has reached your control panel. Were there no explosions or what? None?

x-----x

AB Rosales:

None Ma'am. None. We were able to sail again Ma'am, at that time.

Mrs. Payas:

Okay. Thank you!

Moderator:

Okay. Anyone who still wants to ask?

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Follow-up question.

Moderator:

Okay Ma'am. Just introduce yourself.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

(inaudible)

Moderator:

Ma'am, please speak louder.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Hello. This is Juris, sister of Larry, follow up question.

Moderator:

Go ahead, Ma'am.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

So the two mentioned that they were on the bridge and I presumed that they were using a life vest that time and so my question is, in case they were not able to survive and because they were wearing a life vest, I'm sure they're in their own area. So is there a possibility that one of them will float because of their life vest?

Chief Sareno:

x-----x

That's also my... ma'am, it's possible maybe that they will also float if they were using a life jacket. That's also my question in my mind why is it that until now, they haven't seen any of our other shipmates yet. If they were using a life jacket, that's possible that they will float Ma'am.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

That's an open area right. I just want to clarify, that's an open area right because they were at the bridge, right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. If they're on the bridge, I'm sure they weren't inside. They're outside, at the bridge wing. So that's open, Ma'am.

Sister of Mr. Tagala:

Okay. Thank you so much!

Moderator:

Thank you, as well! Next question from anyone in zoom?

Ms. Suñer:

Good afternoon!

Moderator:

Okay Ma'am Suñer. Hello Ma'am. Clarissa Suñer. Ms. Clarissa...

Ms. Suñer:

Chief mate when you were fixing the engine below... (inaudible)

Moderator:

Ma'am please repeat the question. It's not clear.

Ms. Suñer:

Okay, yes. Wait. My question, for Chief mate.

Moderator:

Go ahead, Ma'am.

x-----x

Ms. Suñer:

Sir, when you were fixing the engine below, did you see Mark Glen?
Were you together sir?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. He was there ma'am, when I was there, when, failed the... when there was water in the control room, he was also there. And I also saw him Ma'am when I was at the main deck when I pumped out the starboard dung. When there was a black out, there and him. I just didn't know where did he go. Because maybe he was assisting immediately in the black out.

Ms. Suñer:

Ah okay, sir. After that, you didn't see him anymore?

Chief mate:

I didn't see him anymore, Ma'am.

Moderator:

Okay now, Ma'am? Ms. Suñer, do you still have questions?

Ms. Suñer:

Hello.

Moderator:

Wait please. Ms. Suñer, were asking her if she has more questions. Ms. Suñer?

Ms. Suñer:

It's okay now, sir. Thank you. It's okay already. Thanks.

Moderator:

Thanks. Next *po*, sir?

Relative of Mr. Israel:

Sir Jay-nel, sir.

x-----x

Moderator:

Introduce yourself. Please introduce yourself sir.

Relative of Mr. Israel:

(inaudible) ... Where did you see him?

Moderator:

Sir, sorry. Please repeat the question. Please repeat the question.

Relative of Mr. Israel:

Sir what about Mark Ekrim Israel, Sir Jay-nel, did you see him?

AB Rosales:

Who, sir?

Moderator:

Sir, who?

Relative of Mr. Israel:

Mark Ekim Israel.

Chief Sareno:

Ah, Israel, I saw him, he's on night watch. I saw him on the main deck when I was pumping. They were there, sitting, maybe also waiting for instruction. But they too have radios. So, I saw him at the main deck.

Relative of Mr. Israel:

Thank you, sir!

Moderator:

Thanks too! Any more questions?

Mrs. Verterra:

Hello *po*.

x-----x

Moderator:

Yes *po*, Ma'am. Please introduce yourself.

Mrs. Verterra:

Hello *po*.

Moderator:

Please introduce yourself, Ma'am.

Mrs. Verterra:

Ahm, I am, the wife of Chief Cook, Ariel Verterra. I would just ask if they noticed my husband?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, Ma'am. I noticed him Ma'am because I passed by him when I was going up the cabin because, main deck, next is, that's where I came from. I notice him Ma'am because I also saw him, his door was open. That was the last time I saw him.

Mrs. Verterra:

How was it when you saw him, that day on Sept 1 night?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, when we listed, Ma'am. There I already saw him in his cabin.

Mrs. Verterra:

But is he aware of what's happening? Does he know it?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. He's aware, Ma'am.

Mrs. Verterra:

Because... Yes, that time, we were chatting each other between 7:00 pm to 10:37 pm. So around that time was my last chat for him, around 10:37. And he didn't reply anymore to my reply to him. So how is that, during that time, were you already in chaos?

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

10:37, Ma'am. No. We're still sailing at that time, Ma'am.

Mrs. Verterra:

Yes.

Chief Sareno:

We were sailing at that time, Ma'am, but tossed around, because the waves were high and the winds were strong. But we were still sailing that time Ma'am.

Mrs. Verterra:

Yes, because in those situations, my husband, he's chatting, he's always chatting me if there's still time. So I am thinking, maybe it was already chaotic that time or maybe you were already on panic.

Chief Sareno:

Oh, not yet Ma'am. That time, we were still sailing at 10:37 because it was past 12 when that happened.

Mrs. Verterra:

Ah okay. Thank you!

Moderator:

Thanks too! Anyone else who has a question? From zoom?

Mrs. Pilota:

Sir, can I ask a question, sir?

Moderator:

Ok, who's this?

Mrs. Pilota:

Carissa Marie Pilota.

Moderator:

x-----x

Okay.

Mrs. Pilota:

Sir, I would just want to ask if anyone noticed my husband Jay Pilota at that time sir?

AB Rosales:

I didn't notice, Ma'am. I didn't see him at that time, Ma'am. I didn't see him.

Chief Sareno:

Even I, Ma'am. I didn't see him that time.

Mrs. Pilota:

Is it possible that there were people sleeping at that time? Because his last chat was that he's going to rest because probably they will be on duty. But from that point, he wasn't able to message me anymore

Chief Sareno:

He said he might be called on duty again?

Mrs. Pilota:

Yes. That's what he said, around 8:15, he said he's going to rest because maybe they'll be called on duty. Is it possible that someone will be sleeping at that time?

Chief Sareno:

For me, Ma'am, maybe no one is going to sleep that time. But around 8 pm until the incident, maybe someone was sleeping. But were already being tossed hard that time. I am not sure for our shipmates if they were asleep at 8:00 to 12:00, ma'am. But for sure when we tilted to one side, on the starboard, maybe no one was still sleeping at that time.

Mrs. Pilota:

Okay, sir. Thank you!

Moderator:

x-----x

Thank you! Next question from zoom, if there's any more.

Brother of Mr. Mañacap:

Hello.

Moderator:

Okay sir. Just introduce yourself.

Mr. Mañacap:

Jake Mañacap, brother of Jhay Mañacap.

Moderator:

Jhay Mañacap.

Mr. Mañacap:

Yes. I would just want to ask Chief mate if he saw my brother.

Chief Sareno:

None sir. I didn't see him that time. I didn't see.

Mr. Mañacap:

Because both of you are from Cebu, you must help each other. Haven't you seen my brother getting into, or using a life jacket

Chief Sareno:

I didn't see Jhay using a lifejacket that time.

Mr. Mañacap:

Oh. Okay.

Moderator:

Thank you! Next question from zoom?

Mrs. Olquindo:

Questions *po*.

x-----x

Moderator:

Yes. Please introduce yourself, Ma'am.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Wife of Alvin Olquindo.

Moderator:

Yes.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Just to ask sir, did you see him, when was the last time you saw my husband?

Chief Sareno:

Last time I saw him, when he got off duty, 8:00, that's it, when he passed by the cabin, we talked a bit. And from what I know, he went out again, that's going to the crew mess. That was the last time we saw each other.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Where did he go?

Chief Sareno:

Going to the crew mess.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Where, sir?

Chief Sareno:

To the crew mess. crew mess.

Mrs. Olquindo:

What's crew mess? What, what...

Chief Sareno:

Ah where the crew have their meals.

x-----x

Mrs. Olquindo:

Is there a TV there?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. Because he was fond of watching, movies, TV, like that.

Mrs. Olquindo:

What was the last, thing you talked about? Is it the situation of the vessel?

Chief Sareno:

**Just that, we are concerned of the strong winds, the waves. Just like...
Were just making things normal, because we are already there.**

Mrs. Olquindo:

In your opinion, when the ship listed, in your opinion, where was my brother at that time?

Chief Sareno:

That's what I don't also know, Ma'am because he was off duty.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Because he's off duty.

Chief Sareno:

I have no idea where he is. But it was not his duty that time, Ma'am.

Mrs. Olquindo:

Okay, sir, thank you!

Moderator:

Thank you! Anyone else who wants to ask in zoom? Is there more? Anyone? No more? No more questions?

Ms. Pitogo:

x-----x

Sir?

Moderator:

Yes? Ms. Linzyl?

Ms. Pitogo:

Hello.

Moderator:

Ms. Linzyl? Ms. Pitogo.

(On the phone)

Chief Sareno:

Ah *sa*, on the exit. Okay. Yes, Ma'am. Yes, Ma'am. Yes, Ma'am just go straight.

Mrs. Fortun:

Good evening. Kay Secretary Bello.

Moderator:

Ma'am wait. Someone's asking Chief mate. The one who last asked called. Not from zoom anymore.

(On the phone)

Chief Sareno:

All officials, and all, hello. About your question Ma'am if how many people have a radio in the ship. All officials have radio, and the ABs, they are the ones who have radios in the ship.

Ms. Pitogo:

So, they only have one frequency?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes. Only one frequency, channel 68.

Ms. Pitogo:

x-----x

(inaudible)

Chief Sareno:

It can be, it can be. Whatever message that I wasn't able to pick up can be picked up by the others who have radios ma'am. Hello. Hello Ma'am, you still have a question Ma'am?

Mrs. Fortun:

Am I acknowledged?

Moderator:

Okay. Okay. Wait, just wait Mrs. Fortun.
Just wait Mrs. Fortun.

(On the phone)

Mr. Sareno:

Okay Ma'am. Okay Ma'am. Just straight, Ma'am.

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible)

Chief Sareno:

Yes, only one frequency.

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible)

Mr. Sareno:

Yes. Yes.

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible)

Mr. Sareno:

x-----x

Yes. Yes, Ma'am. The, the message of...

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible)

Chief Sareno:

Yes. The message from sir "*All hands, wear your life jacket.*" If my companions who have radios heard that, they will also pick that up ma'am, everyone who has a radio that is open, that is open, will pick that up.

Ms. Pitogo:

Okay, sir. Sir one more.

Chief Sareno:

Sige, Ma'am. Hello.

Ms. Pitogo:

Sir? Sir?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible) What's the last thing you remember about Landon Pitogo, sir?

Chief Sareno:

Ma'am I didn't see him that time, Ma'am.

Ms. Pitogo:

Okay sir. Sir AB Rosales. Can he remember anything of Landon?

AB Rosales:

Oh, I didn't see him too Ma'am. Their cabin is on the second deck, ours

x-----x
is on the first deck.

Chief Sareno:

Hello.

Ms. Pitogo:

(inaudible)

AB Rosales:

That's what I... from the radio Ma'am, it picked up that Bosun saying they're on the third deck, going up to the bridge at that time. I didn't pick up anything else.

Ms. Pitogo:

At that time when Captain gave the order, were you going to assemble for abandon ship, sir?

AB Rosales:

That's possible Ma'am but I have no idea because I wasn't able to reach the bridge because I was still at the roof deck Ma'am, then I was already washed out. The three of us were also going to the bridge but we were washed out that's why we didn't reach the bridge. So I have no other idea if...

Ms. Pitogo:

Okay, sir. Last. (inaudible) It's not *ano* there right? What I mean is, they are on that part of the bridge wherein... (inaudible) they can jump or anything that they did as a way for their survival right?

AB Rosales:

Yes, Ma'am. It's possible that they are outside Ma'am, more open Ma'am. Outside, port side of the bridge. That's far from the... they can position themselves, Ma'am.

Ms.

Pitogo:

Can you repeat sir? Your voice was choppy, not clear.

AB Rosales:

x-----x

Possible Ma'am. Possible that they can go out because there's an area outside, on the wings, our bridge has wings, outside Ma'am.

Ms. Pitogo:

Ohh okay. Is there a life raft near that area?

AB Rosales:

I also don't know Ma'am. I don't know Ma'am.

Ms. Pitogo:

Oh. Okay sir. So meaning... (inaudible)

AB Rosales:

I can't say that Ma'am. Because we didn't see each other Ma'am. But based on my instinct Ma'am, each one of us, because all of us went through training Ma'am, it's possible that automatically we'll wear life jacket Ma'am in case of emergency.

Moderator:

Okay now Ms. Linzyl? Ms. Pitogo okay now?

Ms. Pitogo:

Okay. Thank you, sir!

Moderator:

Thanks also. Okay. Mrs. Fortun, any question? Mrs. Fortun?

Sec. Bello:

Wait, wait please. We're running out of time. What's best Cap, do you have a cellphone?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, I have.

Sec. Bello:

Here. What about you Jay-nel, do you have one? We are going to give the number of Jaynel and Eduardo so that you can call them. You'll

x-----x

have more quality communication. Because here, we are rushing. So last question from Gretchen. You'll be the last, okay? There are still questions here.

Moderator:

Ms. Gretchen, last from the zoom. Ms. Gretchen? Ms. Gretchen? Ms. Gretchen? Okay. So, maybe sir, we can now start.

Sec. Bello:

Next.

Mrs. Suarez:

Good afternoon *po*. I'm Rita Suarez, wife of Allan Suarez. Until today, we are hoping that aside from you, our husbands will be back to us through the help of the government and the people who are making a way to help us about our loved ones who are still missing up to present. And my question is much alike what they asked but give me at least peace of mind for the time-being. You mentioned that the ABs have radios. **I was talking to him at 8:40** that night before the incident. Sir Jaynel, was my husband on duty that time? Allan Suarez?

AB Rosales:

Ah, No Ma'am. His duty is day work Ma'am.

Mrs. Suarez:

But what I told him was, "Go to sleep so you wouldn't feel dizzy." He said he was tossed around in his cabin. He said, mommy, it's not possible to sleep at this situation. But he has a radio on his shoulder. One (1), one (1) minute twenty-seven (27) seconds only, was his call and then it was already black out. So I guess, maybe he won't sleep anymore and when Captain radioed, "*Everybody should wear life jacket*". Maybe that's my hope that he was among those going up the bridge. Although, there's a minimum chance, I'm still hoping that possibility that they will be coming home soon or will be home soon, but we are hoping that they will be coming. Yes, if ever they are sick, we'll take them for medications because right now, it's difficult for us to think of what they are suffering from. **Every time we eat, we are thinking if they are eating too or how they are feeling.** Please bear with us if you were stressed with our questions at least those questions were answered by you. Give us hope and at least we are seeing that hope in you. God bless. We hope that you'll be strengthened and perhaps there, when you are reached for communication, you will answer the

x-----x

questions to be given to you by the families. Because I know that you are stressed from the different questions but we are hoping that you could help us. **That's the only thing that will lighten our heavy burden. Thank you.** Thank you Secretary Bello for this opportunity for this. We are so thankful for this. And for Korpil, the people here who make this activity impossible. Thank you *po!*

Sec. Bello:

Thank you *po!*

Mrs. Fernandez:

Good evening *po!* I am the wife of Third Officer Danilo. Ah, when you called sir, it was Third officer who answered. Where was his location at that time? To sir...

Chief Sareno:

He was at the bridge ma'am, that time when he answered my call on the radio

Mrs. Hernandez:

Were they prepared up there, sir?

Chief Sareno:

What I saw, when I went out of the accommodation, I saw third mate and Captain. I didn't, it seems like they weren't wearing a life jacket yet at that time. But they were at the bridge, outside, at the bridge wing. I saw them on the starboard side

Mrs. Hernandez:

That was, that was the last, that was the last time you saw my husband?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. Yes.

Mrs. Hernandez:

Thank you *po!*

Sec. Bello:

x-----x

Okay next. Who else?

Captain Suarez:

Around what time when you say, that you saw third mate and Captain without a life jacket? Is that time already the listing?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir. Yes, sir, when I went out of the accommodation, because when I heard sir say, "All hands, wear your life jacket." So, I got the life jacket. I went out of the accommodation. I can see the bridge wing at the starboard side. Then, I saw Captain and Third Mate, but they have other companions. But I can't identify because it's dark sir.

Captain Suarez:

But were they on over all that time?

Chief Sareno:

As for third mate, he's using casual on duty, so he's using pants. For Captain, I seemed to notice that he's using white.

Captain Suarez:

That's my last question. At that moment, approximately, how much is the rolling or any degrees when you started rolling?

Chief Sareno:

Almost just, sir almost starboard side only sir. That time, my estimate when it... maybe about forty to fifty already sir. Because it was really big.

Captain Suarez:

Prior the list, your rolling, how big? Twenty-five (25), thirty (30) degree, like so.

Chief Sareno:

When we're still sailing?

Captain Suarez:

x-----x

Yes.

Chief Sareno:

Around twenty (20). Sometimes it may reach 25. But that was when we were still sailing.

Captain Suarez:

And that time of the listing, that 30-degree list, was it very sudden?

Chief Sareno:

A bit sudden also.

Captain Suarez:

That list, why did it list?

Chief Sareno:

The winds sir, the strength of the winds.

Captain Suarez:

Is it not because of your cargo because it was rolling? Those are animals. Isn't it because all of them went to the starboard?

Chief Sareno:

I also have an opinion sir that the cows may have leaned onto the starboard railings. There's a possibility of that sir. One is also your opinion.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. And then when it listed, immediately on 30, did that increase the rolling to 30, 40, 50 then capsized moment?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir. The increase of list was gradual sir.

Captain Suarez:

List?

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

How many degrees was the list when you heard the... what was that, a PA or on radio?

Mr. Sareno:

On radio only, sir.

Captain Suarez:

On radio. Don't you have a Public Ad System?

Chief Sareno:

We have, sir. That was what I heard from Sir. He said, "*All hands, wear your life jacket, I cannot announce in PA*". And then his next message, I didn't hear anymore sir. What was his reason that... he can't *maka-ano, yon ang ano*.

Captain Suarez:

And when it already capsized, you said you were washed out already right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

But you saw her being capsized?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes.

Captain Suarez:

And at that time that she capsized, which was first, which submerged, the... or half side?

Chief Sareno:

x-----x

Almost the whole starboard side, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Whole starboard side?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

And when you saw them, they were on the starboard wing?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez

So, from the moment that it capsized, how many minutes more before it disappeared from the horizon?

Chief Sareno:

From the moment when I was already at sea, sir.

Captain Suarez:

Moment that... you earlier said, when you were at sea it was still at a list?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, yes.

Captain Suarez:

Then it capsized? From the time that it capsized until it disappeared from your view, how much time was that?

Chief Sareno:

Around *mga_ano*, sir, my estimate when I was already at sea, I saw the whole starboard side, really *nakaano* in the sea. And in my estimate, a maximum of 15 minutes.

x-----x

Captain Suarez:

Really gone.

Chief Sareno:

Gone.

Captain Suarez:

You haven't seen any of you companions coming out from the...?

Chief Sareno:

None sir, none.

Captain Suarez:

And then when there's a life? Are these the ones from the starboard side?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir. That time when the vessel disappeared, I saw three life rafts, sir, I can recall. Three life rafts floating. But the ship is no longer there, then three life rafts.

Captain Suarez:

Three life rafts, you saw that?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

And you, Rosales, on the port side, the life raft that you were able to get into?

AB Rosales:

Starboard, sir.

Captain Suarez:

x-----x

Ah, starboard as well.

AB Rosales:

That was where I was washed out.

Captain Suarez:

Were you washed out at the starboard?

AB Rosales:

So, the life raft that was retrieved, that's a starboard life raft?

Chief Sareno:

I can't answer. Maybe that's from the port side or what. Because when it was listing on the starboard, the starboard life boat that is... but what's more okay were the ones on the port side that time. Maybe that is...

Captain Suarez:

You mentioned about the EPIRB. Your EPIRB, of course it will give a position.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Captain Suarez:

Fifteen (15) meters below, will automatically...

Chief Sareno:

Yes, sir.

Captain Suarez:

It will be detached from its *pagkaka-ano niya*.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

x-----x

Captain Suarez:

'Yung ang kasama nya don sa ano nya eh. Fifteen (15) meters below. It will be detached. Was that seen?

Chief Sareno:

From the information given to me by the Coast Guard, the EPIRB, it was 1:45 when they received the position.

Captain Suarez:

Okay. Thanks!

Sec Bello:

(inaudible)

Judge Sanchez:

Yes, Sec. Bello, I will give him a chance. You said you saw three life rafts. Three life rafts. Did you see those three life rafts?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. The life rafts were afloat, empty.

Judge Sanchez:

Okay. Was it occupied or not? Did you see if it was occupied or if it's empty?

Chief Sareno:

I don't know if it was occupied that time, Ma'am. Because it was dark.

Judge Sanchez:

But were they aware that a distress call has been sent? Were the crew aware that a distress call has been sent?

Chief Sareno:

Please repeat, Ma'am?

Judge Sanchez:

Were they aware, were the crew aware that a distress call has been sent?

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

I don't know if they were aware that Sir was able to send a distress call.

Judge Sanchez:

And were you washed out on the starboard side or port side?

Chief Sareno:

Starboard.

Judge Sanchez:

Only on that side that you were washed out? Just on that side, that you were washed out?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, here in...

Judge Sanchez:

So you didn't jump, you were washed out?

Chief Sareno:

Jumped... I was washed out. But at that time, I decided to jump, but was washed out before jumping.

Judge Sanchez:

Okay. No more. I guess I have asked everything. Maybe you have more questions?

Ms. Senierez:

Am, follow-up question for both of you. Who was the first one among you who was *umano* on the water? Ah, Chief mate and AB Rosales, who was the first one?

Chief Sareno:

I didn't jump, I was washed out, Ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

x-----x

Okay. Again, clarification as a wife of Chief Engineer, so he's responsible for engine problem. Is that right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

Ah, so, he's the right person who can tell Captain about the status of the engine.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

Is that right? About how many hours, minutes, can be done.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

Because before the Captain will announce the abandon ship, the order will be coming from the Chief Engineer, the status of the, the engine. Because in the picture, I think I just can't identify what time was that. So there, seems like Third Engineer was there, and Chief engineer, as if fixing something in the engine room. This was the time when it is raining.

Chief Sareno:

There's a leak at the control room that moment, Ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

There's a leak at the control room. So I think, that's a bit early, that's still early. That's still early because you were fixing. I got, received a message, actually it's no longer a message eh, they were already pictures, what chief sent me, around 10:56 p.m. of September 1. Okay. He sent me pictures it was already messy in the ship. The things are

x-----x

scattered around. I think, there's the, you still have, you're still running.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

Or there's still engine. I don't know if it's the engine, the main engine or the one for lighting is the one left. At around 10:56 pm, is the engine still functioning or just the lighting of the engine? Because that's two, that's possible right? The main engine is different from the engine for lighting, which supplies light.

Chief Sareno:

Yes, engine. Generator is the one supplying light, Ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

Okay. That's my question. At that time, at 10:56 pm, was the engine not functioning anymore or the generator only? 10:56 pm

Chief Sareno:

10:56, *'pagka ano wala na akong ano talaga na kung sa tanong mo, if there's an engine. Just based on my observation, the engine was still running, ma'am, because we were still rolling that time, Ma'am. Unlike what happened when we listed on one side and the wind was on the port side. But that time, nobody told me, that the engine stopped. Nobody informed me. Based on my opinion, when we were still sailing, our rolling is going port and starboard side. But that time, it was always on the starboard Ma'am. So on my assumption, the engine stopped that time. So that's my...*

Ms. Senierez:

And then, another question. Since, you are the Chief mate, and then, you with Capt. Addug and my husband, so, what is your preparation, three (3) days prior, two (2) days prior and one (1) day prior of September 1 when you encountered that there will be a storm like this? What preparations did you make that time? Because I have received some videos of September 1, that I would want you to identify who were these four people who were at the bridge. Keeping watch on the condition of the ship, what were your preparations? Three (3) days

x-----x

prior, two (2) days prior and one (1) day prior to the incident in September 1.

Chief Sareno:

Actually, as early as August 29, we were already rolling. And our sail was just smooth, normal, wavy, windy, we're rolling, the ship was swinging but you're asking about the preparation, we have not mentioned any, because we were still sailing on 29, 30, 31 and 1. And the on the daytime of 1, our sail was good. We were moving forward, going forward. So, it's like, we weren't expecting that to happen to us because we were good, forward. So none, maybe, *di rin inaano ni sir na ano*, that we'll have a discussion about that typhoon. Because our sail was okay. Wavy, rolling, swing. That's normal to us. So..

Ms. Senierez:

So, you mean, you had no plan, on the possibility that you will encounter the typhoon? Because you were aware that it's not, say, it's the fourth storm that you encountered. Is that right? Typhoon Maysak was the fourth.

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

So, the previous ones, you were able to manage?

Chief Sareno:

Yes.

Ms. Senierez:

This typhoon is strong, strong. You had no plan about it if you're going to hide, or continue?

Chief Sareno:

We have no *ano*...

Ms. Senierez:

You had no conversation...

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

We had no conversation.

Ms. Senierez:

With the officials?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, Ma'am. Because, that's it, what I saw from Sir, he was confident about, the situation. So, there, we're just following sir. Because he has the final decision. So it's okay, our sail on 29, 30, 31, and 1, it's good, sir eh. We were rolling, swinging, that's okay, we can make it. But the thing is we were overtaken.

Ms. Senierez:

Okay, sir. Around what time did the engine fluctuate, when the engine problem happened?

Chief Sareno:

The first one, that was around 8, around that time. I just can't *maano*, it's between 7-8, like that.

Ms. Senierez:

Okay, sir. Around 8:00 o'clock, you had an engine problem. So, are you aware that the chief engineer was informing the captain for regarding the diagnosis if the, the engine can still be fixed in just a few minutes or thirty (30) minutes or one (1) hour? Are you aware of that or were all of you aware of that, because of course that's about the engine? It's the engine that has a problem. So, once that the engine has a problem, we already know if the engine has stopped. The buoyancy of the ship will be lost. So were you aware that at around 8:00 o'clock that time, there was an engine problem?

Chief Sareno:

Yes. We were also aware because it was wavy that time. And a bit windy also. We were also already bothered when we heard that the engine stopped. But it was fixed, so it became okay, because it functioned. So meaning, there is...

x-----x

Ms. Senierez:

So, what you mean is, if an engine failure happened at 8 o'clock, it functioned at around 10 o'clock? 10:00 to 10:56 pm that night, it was still running?

Chief Sareno:

It was still running, my estimate on our first stoppage, around forty-five (45) minutes only. And then we were able to go on. So, it functioned back to normal because we were sailing again. That's it Ma'am.

Ms. Senierez:

So, from 8:00 o'clock that the engine stopped, you were able to sail for around forty-five (45) minutes, around 9:00 o'clock. Is around 9:00 o'clock, that 9 o'clock *na 'yon*, the ship listed again?

Chief Sareno:

No! It was upright.

Ms. Senierez:

Until what time was the ship upright?

Chief Sareno:

That, you're asking ma'am, until what time. Nobody informed me that time that *ano.* My only basis was the situation if the ship. But no one informed me that the engine stopped. Based on the ship's situation that it listed to one side. On my assumption, the engine failed that time because while we were sailing, we were rolling. So that time, the winds on the port side were very strong. So, that time, that's my assumption that the engine stopped. But nobody informed me.

Ms. Senierez:

Okay, sir. Because I was just confused. Okay then, thank you!

Sec. Bello:

So, okay, maybe you are also tired already. Anyway, please give your cellphone numbers. If they still have questions, they can still ask.

Judge Sanchez:

x-----x

Maybe ano...

Sec. Bello:

Meantime, if there is any little help for you...

Judge Sanchez:

Chiefmate, Sir Sareno, if it's possible to just announce the number so that everyone can get it. Thank you! Even with AB Rosales, Thank you!

Chief Sareno:

Okay. Please write down my number. This is my number, 999-448-9189.

Sec. Bello:

Smart or globe?

Judge Sanchez:

Smart.

Chief Sareno:

Smart.

Sec. Bello:

Did you get Eduardo's number?

Judge Sanchez:

999-448-9189, right, Sir Sareno?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, 999-448-9189

Judge Sanchez:

And for Sir Rosales?

Sec. Bello:

x-----x

Jay-nel. Jay-nel.

Mr. AB Rosales:

Ah, 0999-448-9201.

Judge Sanchez:

0999-448-9201, right sir? Thank you! Is this yours, sir? This will be our copy sir.

Sec. Bello:

Okay.

Judge Sanchez:

Please send it in messenger. Thank you very much!

Ms. Senierez:

Ah, sir, excuse me. Can you recognize what time was this video?

Chief Sareno:

Okay.

Sec. Bello:

At least, you were able to ask questions. Do you have more questions for them? You can get their numbers. You were already able to ask them questions. Do you have any more questions to ask them? You can get their numbers. They're pitiable. They will call. We have a, some help from OWWA, to the wives, for the ones without wives, to the mother or father, siblings or children. **This is just a financial assistance, coming from OWWA. Now, after I open the check, OWWA administrator will sign (inaudible)**

Moderator:

Around five (5) minutes.

Sec. Bello:

Five (5) minutes left. Please eat first your *ensaymada*.

Judge Sanchez:

x-----x

As said by Secretary while we are eating, we're thinking if they are eating.

Sec. Bello:

The Captain is your brother?

Judge Sanchez:

He's my brother, Secretary.

Ms. Senierez:

Thank you Chiefmate and AB. We're having the...

Judge Sanchez:

May the recover.

Ms. Senierez:

Hope you will overcome your trauma. We all know that this tragedy will be part of our life, so you should be strong also. That's all. Thank you very much for the cooperation!

Chief Sareno:

Thanks too! Hoping, praying, if we still haven't seen them, that and we are also wishing that there will be good news even if it's now a long time and they are not yet found. That's it, I hope we will be given peace of mind wherever they are, I hope they'll help us.

Sec. Bello:

You were the first one to be rescued? You're the first one rescued, right?

Chief Sareno:

Yes, I was the first one who was rescued.

Sec. Bello:

Next is Jaynel. You're the third right? Mr. Linao, he was still alive when found. But later died, right? He died at the hospital. But is it true that he was still alive when recovered but upon arrival at the hospital, he died? He didn't make it.

x-----x

Chief Sareno:

I only saw that on news but Japan Coast Guard approached me, they asked me to identify who that was. The (inaudible) was their basis. So I asked based on his clothes of color blue, because color blue is for the engine, and then I was also *naano* because his body was bloated. So I said this is... there's a bit of... a bit, they asked me to identify... this is... Engine fitter, Joel Linao.

Sec. Bello:

I had a problem that time when I saw the picture of Linao, Mrs. Linao didn't want to believe that it was him. But she told me that she wants to see the picture of Linao. And I saw the videos, I don't know who among you did I talk to. There, it was Nelly Ramos and I told her "*Can you please be the one to send the video? I am naano.*" Because he was already bloated, right? Because she said, "*he doesn't seem to be my husband.*" "I don't know who was the one who ended up sending it to Mrs. Linao. But lately, she was able to accept it, right?"

Judge Sanchez:

Sec. I have a question that came to mind.

Sec. Bello:

Okay.

Judge Sanchez:

For Sir Sareno. The bridge, does it have two doors? At the bridge, are there two doors at the bridge or just one?

Chief Sareno:

No, just one, it's closed. But there's a bridge wing. Space that is open space, the bridge wing, Ma'am...

Judge Sanchez:

Yes. Okay.

Chief Sareno:

And then you can cross to the port side even if you won't pass through inside. There's a way behind the bridge that will make you reach the

x-----x
port side.

Judge Sanchez:

To the port side.

Chief Sareno:

So, I have an opinion that it's possible also that they can move to the port side without passing through the inside of the bridge.

Judge Sanchez:

Because I was thinking maybe, if they were trapped at the bridge or not. So is it possible that that's not the case and they were able to go out?

Chief Sareno:

That's it. That's my *ano*, why, so for me, they really didn't get inside the bridge, Ma'am. That's my *inaano*, they really wouldn't get inside the bridge that time. What I am curious about is that why are they not found if ever... Because in my opinion, it's possible that they weren't sucked in, Ma'am right, it's also possible that they were sucked in. But I'm sure if there's a life jacket, maybe it will also float. But what I'm curious about is why there's nothing seen, not even a body.

Judge Sanchez:

But perhaps Sir Jaynel when you were called to go to the bridge, maybe that's the signal that you are going to abandon? What do you think? When you were called to the bridge because you were the only ones who they were waiting for, do you think that is a signal that you were going to abandon the ship?

AB Jaynel:

I cannot pick up your message Ma'am.

Judge Sanchez:

When you were called to the bridge, do you think that was a signal that you are going to abandon ship?

AB Rosales:

It's also possible that the reason we are called to the bridge... (inaudible)

x-----x

because as soon as Captain said it, we were already washed out Ma'am.
(inaudible)

Judge Sanchez:

Or is it right to assume that everyone when at the bridge were using a life jacket, right?

Chief Sareno:

That's also possible, Ma'am. Because all cabins have life jackets.

Sec. Bello:

Captain has to be in life jacket right?

Chief Sareno:

As for Captain, when I saw him, when I was in the accommodation, I saw, he's not yet wearing a life jacket. Captain was like, he isn't losing hope. So in my opinion Ma'am, he seemed like he wasn't losing hope even if we were in that situation. That's only my opinion.

Ms. Senierez:

So, around that time also sir, you didn't see chief engineer?

Chief Sareno:

I didn't see him, Ma'am.

Sec. Bello:

Okay, okay, it's getting late. (inaudible) This is a little help from OWWA Administrator

(Giving of financial assistance)

x-----x

Transcribed to the best of my knowledge, hearing, and ability.

RAQUEL A. KATIPUNAN
Court Stenographer II

Translation by:

x-----x

LARA PEARL ALVAREZ

Save the Forty