



Singapore, 21 May 2020 | For Immediate Release

Singapore Organisation of Seamen collaborates with MPA to help Singaporean seafarers tide over COVID-19

More Singaporean seafarers without shipboard employment will be eligible for additional assistance under the MaritimeSG Together Package announced by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) on 29 April 2020.

2. The Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) is the latest seafarer union collaborating with MPA to provide the Seafarers Relief Package (SRP) to assist its Singaporean members whose shipboard employment has been affected by border control measures and crew change restrictions. The SRP provides support of \$800 per month to eligible Singaporean seafarers who are unable to secure shipboard employment between 1 May 2020 and 31 July 2020.

3. Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS' President, said, "Seafarers are in a vulnerable position in this COVID-19 pandemic. Their livelihoods are adversely affected by border control measures and crew change restrictions. As a union that represents seamen, we understand the hardship that they face. We are working with MPA to offer financial assistance, in the form of this relief package, to our Singaporean seafarers and their families for them to get by."

4. Ms Quah Ley Hoon, MPA's Chief Executive, said, "MPA has been working closely with the maritime industry and unions to recognise the contributions of our seafarers who have been working to keep supply chains moving amidst this pandemic. We welcome SOS coming onboard to help those Singaporean seafarers who do not have shipboard employment through the SRP."

5. The SRP is part of the MPA's MaritimeSG Together Package to provide further financial support to the maritime industry in the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

6. SOS delivered 650 care packs containing surgical masks, hand sanitisers, anti-bacterial hand wash, and anti-bacterial hand wipes to its members based in Singapore.

About Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS)

The Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) is a global maritime trade union commissioned by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) to promote good industrial relations between seafarers and their employers (shipping companies). In addition to helping seamen receive their just reward for their hard work, it also assists members in the retraining and upgrading of their skills in the competitive employment market. Since 1971, SOS has been actively representing seafarers through the Collective Bargaining Agreements with the shipping companies that employ them. It is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Nautilus Federation.

About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) was established on 2 February 1996, with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre (IMC), and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of Port Authority, Port Regulator, Port Planner, IMC Champion, and National Maritime Representative. MPA partners the industry and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our port waters, facilitate port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and promote maritime R&D and manpower development.

For media queries, please contact:

Ms Germaine Kong

Corporate Communications, Singapore Organisation of Seamen

HP: (65) 9232 2388

Email: germaine_kong@seacare.com.sg

Ms Serene Liu

Corporate Communications, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

HP: (65) 9824 6525

Email: serene_liu@mpa.gov.sg