



Media Release

Singapore, 9th October 2020 | For Immediate Release

Singaporean Seafarers Receive Additional Unemployment Assistance

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) have extended financial support for Singaporean seafarers under the Seafarers Relief Package (SRP) by another three months, i.e. from a cap of three months (up to \$2400) to six months (up to \$4800). Singaporean seafarers who are unable to secure shipboard employment between 1 May 2020 and 31 December 2020 are eligible for the SRP. Previously, the eligibility period for the SRP covered 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020. Please refer to Annex for details.

This afternoon, Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Wavelink Maritime Institute to observe a training session for Tripartite Nautical Training Award (TNTA) and Tripartite Engineering Training Award (TETA) cadets. Cadet trainees under the TNTA and TETA place-and-train programmes, together with other qualifying seafarers, have benefitted from the SRP as their shipboard attachments or employment were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Seafarers play a vital role in enabling global seaborne trade, and keeping the supply of critical goods flowing. To enhance our safety net for Singaporean seafarers, we will extend the Seafarers Relief Package to provide more help to those whose jobs are affected by COVID-19. We will also support seafarers to go for training and to upgrade their skills," said Mr Chee.

Ms Mary Liew, SMOU's General Secretary, said, "Despite the unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic, seafarers continue to play an essential role in keeping the global supply chain moving. While tripartite partners continue to accelerate efforts to facilitate crew change at the Singapore port, we also want to continue to offer assistance to our Singaporean seafarers who have been affected and are unable to sign on ships during this challenging time. We hope that the extension of the Seafarers Relief Package will lighten the financial burden of our seafarers and their families."

Mr Kam Soon Huat, SOS's President, added, "SOS strongly supports the extension of SRP amidst the ongoing challenges faced by Singaporean seafarers and their dependants. We understand their concerns and we want to be there for them as much as we can during this difficult phase of their seafaring career."

The SRP is part of the MaritimeSG Together Package, which was introduced in April 2020 to provide support to the maritime industry in the wake of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

ANNEX

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SEAFARERS RELIEF PACKAGE (SRP)

Eligibility of Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singaporean who is an active seafarer and has been recently deployed on board ships for the period from 1 Nov 2019 onwards; and • Awaiting assignment or on standby for employment onboard foreign-going vessel for 30 days or more between 1 May 2020 to 31 December 2020 (i.e. not paid seafaring allowance). • Exclude individuals who have benefited from the COVID-19 Support Grant administered by the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Self-Employed Income Relief Scheme administered by the Ministry of Manpower and NTUC Income. 																				
Support Grant	<p>MPA, SMOU and SOS will provide support as follow:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="518 958 1297 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>MPA</th> <th>SMOU*</th> <th>SOS**</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eligible seafaring officers (i.e. holds a valid CoC)</td> <td>\$500</td> <td>\$300</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cadet trainees who are working adults in place-and-train programs for eventual full employment with their companies</td> <td>\$200</td> <td>\$300</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ratings (Seamen registered with MPA):</td> <td>\$500</td> <td>-</td> <td>\$300</td> <td>\$800</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*For eligible members of SMOU ** For eligible members of SOS</p> <p>The total support period is capped at 6 months.</p>		MPA	SMOU*	SOS**	Total	Eligible seafaring officers (i.e. holds a valid CoC)	\$500	\$300	-	\$800	Cadet trainees who are working adults in place-and-train programs for eventual full employment with their companies	\$200	\$300	-	\$500	Ratings (Seamen registered with MPA):	\$500	-	\$300	\$800
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Application period and form for submission	<p>Applicants can apply by submitting their applications and supporting documents using the online form https://form.gov.sg/5ea4fe5696f87100114f79e4 or scanning the following QR Code:</p>  <p>Application is open till 31 March 2021.</p>																				

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.

About the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

The Singapore Maritime Officers' Union was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members.

About the 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 positive industrial relations between seafarers and their employers, shipping companies. Since 1971, SOS has been representing ratings and helping them receive their dues through Collective Bargaining Agreements with shipping companies. SOS also works actively with tripartite partners to improve the working and living conditions of seafarers and helps members acquire and upgrade skills that meet the demands of the industry. SOS is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Nautilus Federation.

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