

THE SINGAPORE STRANDED SEAFARERS' FUND

Name of Fund

Singapore Stranded Seafarers' Fund

Date of Establishment

16 August 1999.

Purpose of Fund

To provide assistance for stranded seafarers on Singapore ships. The Fund would contribute towards reducing the hardships faced by seafarers on board ships while they wait for repatriation or the settlement of their claims.

Use of the Fund

To buy fuel such as diesel to run shipboard generators, purchase provisions and water for the seafarers onboard Singapore-registered vessels stranded in Singapore and overseas.

However, the Fund would only be used when it is clear that it is no longer possible to get the shipowners to bear their responsibility to the crew. For instance, when the shipowners' companies become insolvent. The Fund would then be the last resort to ensure that the stranded crew is provided with food, water supplies and fuel (to run the shipboard generators) to sustain them onboard the ship until they are repatriated or the commercial dispute settled.

Start-up sum of the Fund

S\$300,000, of which the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is contributing S\$200,000, and the two local unions, namely, the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS), are contributing a total of S\$100,000.

Contributions from other organisations or individuals are also welcomed.

When the Fund drops below \$150,000, the three parties concerned will consider topping up the Fund.

Maintenance of the Fund

The Fund would be managed by a Committee to be formed by representatives from the MPA and the unions.

Disbursement of the Fund

The Committee acting on consensus would have the discretion to allocate an appropriate sum from the Fund to assist stranded seafarers based on the number of seafarers and the cost of living at the location.