

Minutes of the
 178th Regular Board Meeting of the
 Maritime Industry Authority
 Board of Directors
 MARINA Board Room
 4th Floor, Trida Building
 Taft Avenue corner T. M. Kalaw St.,
 Ermita, Manila
 November 8, 2007
 12:00 noon

PRESENT

Hon. Ma. Elena Bautista	USEC-MTS-DOTC
Hon. Vicente T. Suazo, Jr.	Vice-Chairman, MARINA
Hon. Oscar M. Sevilla	Member, PPA
Hon. Pedro Vicente Mendoza	Member, DTI/PSB
Hon. Andres Comis	Representative, DND
Hon. Justino Bote	Representative, DBP
Hon. Carlos C. Salinas	Private Sector Representative
Hon. Enrique M. Aboitiz, Jr.	Private Sector Representative
LCDR Ramon B. Reblora	Observer, PCG

OTHERS PRESENT:

Atty. Gloria J. Victoria-Bañas	MARINA
Col. Primo V. Rivera, DSC, PhD	MARINA
Dir. Roberto C. Arceo	MARINA
Dir. Arhleen A. Romero	MARINA
Atty. Manuel C. Portus	MARINA
Atty. Ma. Rowena B. Hubilla	MARINA
Mr. Efren Juan Borci, Jr.	MARINA
Mr. Jose J. Teañó	MARINA
Mr. Richard D. Hora, Jr.	MARINA
Mr. Arnaldo P. Vallesfino	MARINA
Ms. Marilette M. Herrera	MARINA
Ms. Miriam Y. Dimayuga	MARINA
Ms. Margarita E. Carlos	MARINA
Ms. Agnes S. Encelan	

QUORUM	<p>With a quorum duly certified by the Acting Board Secretary to be present, the meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>In the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Suazo cited Sec. VIII of P.D. 474 as basis for the election of the temporary Presiding Officer. Board Member Sevilla moved for the nomination of Administrator Suazo as Presiding Officer, which was seconded by Usec. Bautista.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPROVED</u></p> <p>A. Reading/Approval of the Minutes of the 177th Regular Meeting held on August 29, 2007 at the MARINA Board, 4th Floor, TRIDA Bldg., Taft Avenue cor. T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila.</p>	<p>On motion duly made and seconded, the Board adopted the resolution:</p> <p>“RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved that the Minutes of the 177th Regular Meeting of the MARINA Board held on August 29, 2007 at the MARINA Board Room be APPROVED as it is hereby APPROVED”.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>B. Proposed Memorandum Circulars</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPROVED</u></p> <p>B.1. Revised Guidelines on the issuance of Enhanced Seafarers Identification and Record Book (Amended MC No. 163)</p>	<p>Director Arhleen Romero informed the Board Members that in compliance with the directive during the last board meeting, a public consultation was again conducted in Manila on October 5, 2007 which was attended by different sectors from both private and government.</p> <p>Accordingly, the highlight of the consultation are as follows: a) the SIRB will not be issued to foreign national enrolled in maritime schools, the issuance being exclusive only for Filipino seafarers; b) The Basic Safety Training (BST) shall remain to be the minimum requirement for the issuance of SIRB and this cannot be substituted by the Basic Offshore Induction and Emergency Training (BOST); c) For seafarers who have not gone on board the vessel for five (5) years, MARINA will identify any acceptable equivalent working experience, preferably maritime related, to be considered for the issuance of SIRB with out undergoing a re-training; d) NBI clearance is retained as one of the documentary requirements for the issuance of SIRB. School records will be required to cadets enrolled in formal maritime course for the purpose of wearing shoulder boards, in order to distinguish them from other seafarers securing the SIRB.</p> <p>Board Member Salinas made a remark that he cannot see the connection on the submission of school records to the wearing of shoulder boards.</p> <p>Atty. Bañas, calling attention to Item 5 of the draft revised MC, clarified that school records are required to be submitted in order for the cadets to wear a shoulder board during picture taking.</p>

Director Romero continued her presentation of the highlights involving the payment of fee for regular and expedite processing of SIRB application. Four (4) hours for expedite processing and eight (8) hours for regular processing. As for the fee for replacement of lost SIRB, it will be similar to regular processing if the loss was due to maritime accidents.

Calling attention on the coverage of the draft MC, Board Member Sevilla remarked that there seems to be no provision on supernumeraries as well as the wives of the seafarers joining their husbands on board the vessel. He inquired how the proposed MC will cover the supernumeraries and the seafarers' wives.

Director Romero clarified that a separate guideline will govern the supernumeraries as they are not required to secure SIRB. They will only apply with the MARINA for the issuance of a certificate identifying them as such.

Board Member Salinas inquired what kind of document will the supernumeraries and the wives show when they go to other countries.

Director Romero replied that they can show their passports, wherein Board Member Salinas reacted that a passport is not a proper document for boarding a ship, otherwise anybody can be allowed to go to other countries with a passport saying that they are seaman.

Director Romero elaborated that if the supernumeraries and the seaman's wives qualify under the requirements, they may be issued SIRB. Atty. Bañas further clarified if they meet the requirements for the issuance of SIRB then they will be issued one however MARINA will not specify whether they are supernumeraries or the wives of the seafarers.

Usec. Bautista suggested that a SIRB with a different color can be issued to distinguish a supernumerary from the seafarers.

Atty. Bañas clarified that during the Oct. 5 public consultation, the participants which are mostly seafarers and officials stated that they SIRB which are not confusing at any port of entry. She further clarified that what we have actually is an SIRB which actually has no restrictions.

Board Member Sevilla elaborated his point that if MARINA has already some requirements for the issuance of an SIRB for supernumeraries as well as for the exceptional cases like the seafarers' wives going on board, why not include them in the provisions of the MC, an SIRB which will state a supernumerary on whatever functions he/she performs. In other words, its clear in the MC that a supernumerary or anyone not mentioned therein are not qualified to apply a seaman's book.

Mr. Efren Borci commented that in previous MCs, there is no provision for the spouses of seafarers but MARINA do issue SIRB for accommodation purposes only.

Usec. Bautista called the attention on number 8 definition of an SIRB which stated "to all Filipino seafarers and others". She inquired what does the term "others" refers to. The Presiding Officer made a clarification that it refers to the chamber maids and other service providers.

Board Member Salinas made an inquiry on the case of a superintendent who have gone on board for several year, if he is required to go on training just for the issuance of a SIRB, to which the Presiding Officer replied that they are exempted.

Atty. Bañas inquired from Director Romero why the definition of service providers was not included in the revised MC 163.

The Presiding Officer directed Director Romero to put back the definition of service providers in the amended MC 163.

Usec. Bautista added as a rejoinder the putting back of the definition of service providers and to expound it as to include the supernumeraries.

Board Member Sevilla moved for the approval of the MC subject to the revision/correction as suggested by the Board.

Thereupon, the Board made the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Management, Memorandum Circular No. 163 on the Issuance of the Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB), subject to the instruction to put back on the Amended Circular the definition of service providers and to expound it to include the supernumeraries, be APPROVED as it is hereby APPROVED, as corrected/adjusted".

APPROVED

B.2. Rules and Regulations on the Requirement to Implement Master's Oath of Safe Voyage (MOSV)

Director Roberto Arceo made a presentation as to the aspect, mechanism and importance of implementing the MOSV. Basically, a MOSV is similar to the Master's oath of safe departure (MOSD) as it pertains to the certification of the vessel as to its seaworthiness. Under the MOSV, the responsibility of putting up all the other elements of seaworthiness plus the reporting will be done by the Master through the company at the time the vessel departs. The responsibilities of the Master will joint and separate from the company. Under this Circular for as long as the Master remains, the MOSV will likewise remain, unless the Master was replaced, and in that case a new MOSV must be executed by the new Master of the vessel.

Board Member Sevilla seek clarification specifically on par. 7 of Item V of the proposed MC which states "the Master of the ship shall accomplish the documentation specified in the MOSV prior to every departure". He made an inquiry, relative to the provision "every departure" as to who will administer the oath if there is no MARINA personnel in the port