

## HAPPY SEAFARERS DAY

Seaman one day then seaman forever. Before becoming pilots we had,all, spent too many years at sea so we know how the seaman life is hardish. They played since centuries a crucial role to secure global supply chains across worldwide as the blood in a human body. Seafarers have been designated key workers due to the importance of shipping to the supply of food, goods and medical supplies.

Today, with the the current critical circumstances of Covid-19 Pandemic, the safety and well-being of the crews should remain the main priority for all shipowners. Travel restrictions have meant they have been unable to leave vessels once at port, leading to many being unable to go home long after their work contracts have expired.

Kitack Lim, the General Secretary of the IMO, has said the industry is on the verge of “a humanitarian crisis”, and insisted it is up to governments to resolve the matter.

Most of the seafarers have been “sailing non-stop” since the COVID-19 outbreak but have secured the flow of essential products in doing so. Consequently, “fatigue and issues with mental health” are increasing. They are serving well above their normal contract length and still have no line of sight on when they can return home.

Prompt solutions should be found the soonest because, for both safety, regulatory and humanitarian reasons, crew changes cannot be postponed indefinitely.

As a pilot we duly express here our compassion then renew our entire solidarity to all our brothers who are still stranded onboard vessels and unable to enjoy the family and sweethome life during this crisis as we used to do it every day after our shift.

So on this June 25th, we wish you an happy seafarers day then enjoy your day.

CAPTAIN OUMAR DRAME

AMPA SECRETARY GENERAL