

3rd Services Committee Meeting Summary

The 3rd Services Committee for the 2023/2025 term, led by Mr Lakhbir Singh (Chairman), convened at the SSA Office in the Bank of China Building. The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from the Chairman, expressing gratitude to attendees and the 3 NEA officers. A positive start to the discussion and engagement with the members by NEA's willingness to listen to member's concerns and feedback and appreciating industry support. The Chair highlighted the association's active and regular interactions with MPA and emphasized the need for collaboration to improve services and operations and encouraged likewise collaboration of future work with NEA.

The NEA topic concluded on a positive note as members gained a clear understanding of the work process, spanning from online booking to on-site inspections. Members recognized the existing challenges faced by NEA and acknowledged industry players' setbacks, emphasizing the need for improvement and future collaboration.

The chair briefed on bank guarantees and their reconsideration in light of recent statements by the minister. Michael added the MPA circular on BGs was shared recently, and industry briefings are expected from MPA to guide companies with existing BG arrangements. Details include terms and conditions for the BG removal process, such as a good payment history to be included in the phase of the removal. MPA's role in starting the process was emphasized, with hopes of gradual adoption by other agencies. The Chair addressed concerns about bank guarantees, particularly for smaller companies, emphasizing the need for a review of the financial impact.

The discussion then moved on to the proposed 72-hour arrival notice, which provides a mechanism create efficiency and concurrently to expose inefficiencies in private terminals and allows MPA to intervene and enforce better coordination. The initiative aligns with MPA's goal of getting all terminals to coordinate and plan for ship arrivals more efficiently. Michael added quoting Captain Segar from MPA urging industry cooperation to make this practice workable and beneficial for terminal planning.

The Chair and Michael also clarified the PSA marine pilot and MPA billing process, specifically, the buttons used by PSA pilots to mark different stages of operations. Mr. Jimmy provides a detailed explanation of the process, thus providing greater clarity to the industry. The billing cycle clarification was discussed, with efforts made to understand how billing calculations are done, involving the role of pilots, start and end points, and the link to MPA port dues. The session concluded by expressing gratitude to Mr. Jimmy and encouraging questions for ongoing engagement.

Singapore, 27th February 2024
