

# FEATURED NEWS

## Operation Safe Boat 2021

Operation Safe Boat is coordinated every year by SIMA during the yearend festive season to ensure safety of all at sea

## Safe Manning & Inspection of Vessels

An important reform conducted by SIMA in 2021 to raise the safety standards of domestic shipping in Solomon Islands

## SIMA Workshop Report

Reporting on the workshop SIMA held for ship operators on 2-3 December 2021



## NEWSLETTER 2021



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings from SIMA!

As the Chair of the Board of SIMA, I am pleased to introduce this first newsletter as we have been in full operations since 1 January 2021 only.

SIMA is resolved and is making all possible efforts to assume its responsibilities and mandate to ensure it is safe to travel on board domestic ships in Solomon Islands.

Unfortunately, we had to learn from the Taimareho 1 accident in April 2020. The case is now before the High Court of Solomon Islands.

However, at SIMA, we have already engaged changes to improve safety standards and safe manning of ships that we are committed to achieve.

Safety at sea is all of us business. Fathers, mothers, grandparents, we are responsible when we decide to board a ship already at full capacity.

Masters and Owners, you have the ultimate responsibility when taking a ship to sea against the rules.

We all want to enjoy and celebrate the yearend festive season with our family, but we do not want this time to be another disaster and grieving of parents, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters.

The Operation Safe Boat 2021 is a testament of SIMA's engagement, this letter a call to you all for safer voyages at sea in Solomon Islands.

Tagio Tumas and merry Christmas.

# Operation Safe Boat 2021

*Ensuring safety of all in Solomon Islands waters*

Operation Safe Boat is coordinated every year by SIMA during the yearend festive season to ensure safety of all at sea.

## Why?

The yearend festive season is traditionally busy time for domestic ships carrying people back to their home island. Too often, ships are boarded by too many passengers compromising the ship's stability and safety of all at sea.

## When?

In 2021, the Operation Safety Boat will start on 18 December until Monday 10 January 2022.

## Who?

SIMA will coordinate the operation with the support of the Solomon Islands Port Authority (SIPA) and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).

## How?

SIMA's Vessel Inspectors will be present to board all departing vessels and check number of passengers, storage of cargo and the mandatory vessel's safety certificates.

## Our messages

TO ALL

### **Safety at sea is everyone's responsibility**

*"Passengers, crews, do not overload ships, do not exceed authorised number of passengers."*

*"You put your life and life of those travelling with you at risk."*

TO SHIP OPERATORS AND CREWS

Safety at sea and safe operation of a ship remain the sole responsibility of the Master and the Owner.

A ship's Master or Owner commits an offence to the Shipping Act 1998 when permitting more persons to be carried than the number stated in the Vessel Safety Certificate.

TO PASSENGERS AND PUBLIC

Passengers put their life and the life of their family, friend and other passengers at risk when they embark on a ship that has already reach its maximum number of passengers:

*"Do not put your life at risk, do not embark on ships already full, follow crew instructions, book on the next voyage."*

To watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni1DaRidOrY>



# Safe Manning & Inspection of Vessels

## SIMA Workshop Report

As per the Shipping Act 1998 as amended SIMA is the administration responsible to issue a Safe Manning Certificate (SMC) and a Vessel Safety Certificate (VSC) to domestic vessels when they are found compliant after statutory and mandatory surveys and inspections.

### *Safe Manning Certificate*

The SMC specifies the number and qualification of crew members necessary to operate the vessel. In Solomon Islands, SMCs are issues for:

- unlimited voyages,
- near-coastal voyages (within 200 NM from the coast and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Solomon Islands), and
- inshore voyages (within 15 NM of the coast).

When the SMC is issued, it is the responsibility of the Master and the Owner to deposit a signed crew list at the office of SIMA each time there is a change in the crew and provide copies of the crew's employment contracts for approval by SIMA.

### *Vessel Safety Certificate*

The VSC states compliance of the vessel with applicable safety standards. It is technical in nature and is verified by SIMA at the occasion of periodic surveys and inspections.

A VSC is valid for 5 years as long as annual surveys are conducted +/- 3 months of the VSC anniversary date (expire date). In addition, two hull inspections, including an inspection of the outside of the vessel's bottom, during any five-year period and no more than 36 months between any two inspections.

Ensuring all vessels have a valid SMC and VSC is an important reform conducted by SIMA to raise the safety standards of domestic shipping in Solomon Islands. With the efforts made by the ship operators, major progress has been made in 2021.

SIMA organized a workshop with domestic shipping operators with the objective to present regulatory standards of safe manning of domestic vessels, ship safety and equipment, and pollution prevention and response and to strengthen dialogue, identify challenges and propose solutions to address issues.

The workshop took place on 9-10 December 2021 at Honiara Hotel and included a meeting of Women in Maritime to raise gender equality issues in the maritime sector.

The workshop recalled that the maritime industry in Solomon Islands is the lifeline between communities and support the sustainable economic development of the country. All participants agreed to:

- Ensure all domestic vessels are inspected to raise safety standards and prevent vessels overloading and excess of passengers,
- continue reforms to ensure vessels' safe manning,
- strengthen communication between SIMA and ship owners and operators, and communicate to the travelling public on safety at sea and pollution prevention,
- call SIG to resolve unfair competition in domestic shipping and support the industry,
- call the Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA) and development partners to assist further in building maritime infrastructure to better manage passengers and cargo and make available reception facilities for vessel's wastes, and
- request SIMA to further extend its services in other provinces and improve its responsiveness to ship owners' requests.

The workshop report, agenda and presentation are available on SIMA's website at:

[:https://www.sima.gov.sb/meetings/](https://www.sima.gov.sb/meetings/)



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