

## MITC Holds its 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting for 2018



In compliance with the Secretary's instruction to table for tripartite discussion the bills on Magna Carta for Seafarers and other related bills, the Maritime Industry Tripartite Council (MITC) holds its 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting for the year on 25 January 2018 at the AMOSUP Convention Hall in Intramuros, Manila.

Undersecretary Joel B. Maglunsod and Director Benjo Santos M. Benavidez presided the meeting with the following agenda: 1) Report of Updates from the MITC Overseas and Domestic Seafaring Committee; 2) Magna Carta for Seafarers and other related bills; and 3) Issues and concerns of the Masters and Mates Association of the Philippines, Inc. (MMAP).

Dir. Levinson Alcantara of the POEA reported the Overseas Seafaring Committee accomplishments which included the issuances relative to the implementation of MLC, 2006. On the other hand, Engr. Kristine Carol Soriente-Ramos of BWC provided updates on the issuance of the Declaration of Maritime Labor Compliance (DMLC) Part 1 and the Maritime Labor Certificate (MLC) to Philippine Registered Ships as well as the assessment or inspection of domestic ships with respect to the implementation of D.O. No. 129-13.

During the meeting, the MITC approved the draft issuance on Financial Security for Philippine Registered Ships engaged in International Voyage, in compliance with the

amendments to the Code implementing Regulations 2.5 and 4.2 and the appendices of the MLC, 2006.

Dir. Benavidez, on the other hand, presented the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers bills filed at the Senate wherein the MITC agreed to constitute a Technical Working Group (TWG) that will study and discuss the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers bills filed at the Senate. The output of the TWG shall be presented to the MITC plenary for the consideration of the members.

Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III attended the meeting and informed the body of the launching of the OFW bank. He said that as soon as the bank starts its operation, OFWs can buy shares of the bank.

The MITC was created by virtue of Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the maritime industry stakeholders on 26 January 2011 pursuant to Executive Order No. 403, Series of 1990, as amended by Executive Order No. 97, Series of 1999 (Amending E.O. No. 49 and Further Expanding the Functions of the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council) which serve as a forum through which labor, management and government sectors work together to address specific maritime labor and employment concerns, and as an advisory body to industry stakeholders in terms of policies and programs affecting labor and employment in the maritime industry.

END/Honey Glaze M. Alipio