***Eligibility criteria for a seafarer to benefit from the Welfare Schemes 2016:-***

In order to be eligible to benefit from the different schemes as an active seafarer the latter should meet the following requirements:-

1. The seafarer must be a Mauritian national and holder of a Mauritian Discharge Book;
2. The seafarer must be registered as an active seafarer with the Ministry;
3. The seafarer must not have been found guilty by a Court of law of any offence punishable by imprisonment;
4. The seafarer must be registered in the database of the Seafarer’s Welfare Fund;
5. The seafarer must have contributed to the SICOM Pension Scheme set up under the aegis of the Seafarers’ Welfare Fund for at least 3 years prior to the request to benefit from any of the scheme of the Fund;
6. The seafarer must not have taken up employment ashore in the public service, parastatal institution or with any local authority;
7. The seafarer must not have taken up employment in the private sector ashore during the last preceding years;
8. Any seafarer who is known to have been offered and refused employment on board any vessel on at least two (2) occasions without any justification will not be entitled to benefit from the different schemes.
9. For new seafarers entering the maritime sector as from February 2016, the following will apply:-

 a) An active seafarer working on the deck or in the engine room must have sea service of at least five(5) years which shall be attested by a record of sea service obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Shipping;

b) An active seafarer employed in any department other than the deck or engine must have at least ten (10) years sea going service attested by a record of sea service from the Office of the Superintendent of Shipping; (this condition is specific for hotel staff)

The above eligibility criteria will help streamline and allow only those *bona fide* seafarers to benefit from the schemes.