

## **IMO BEGINS MARITIME AUDIT OF KENYA**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) began its audit of Kenya on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 to determine the extent to which Kenya is implementing and enforcing applicable IMO instruments and conventions. The IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) will be conducted by IMO appointed Auditors in line with the IMO Resolution A.1070 (28) for IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) and is scheduled to end on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

“The Audit process will help the country build capacity in the maritime sector and identify areas for further improvement,” said Prof. Paul Maringa, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport- Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development during the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) opening meeting at the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) headquarters on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The IMO Audit opening session was attended by IMO auditors, Mr. George Macgoye, Ag. Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority, KMA’s Board of Directors, representatives of the State Department of Shipping and Maritime affairs, Ministry of Interior and Coordination Of National Government, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Ministry of ICT, the Kenya Navy and other lead government agencies.

IMO’s lead auditor for the exercise noted that the wide participation of government agencies in the audit opening session demonstrated the importance of the maritime sector to Kenya. He also said that the audit will provide feedback to help the country improve its capacity to implement international maritime regulations.

The key benefit of the audit to Kenya is enhancing the nation’s compliance to the IMO mandatory instruments, which is expected to build confidence in Kenya’s maritime sector as it relates to maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention.

The main objective of the audit is to enhance continuous improvement in the maritime sector, identification of possible risks and prevention or mitigation of such risks before they occur. If any findings or observations are raised during the IMO audit, the Audit framework provides room for corrective action by the country.

The mandatory audit of all International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States commenced from 1 January 2016, with the aim of determining the extent to which member states give full and complete effect to their obligations and responsibilities contained in a number of IMO treaty instruments. The mandatory IMO instruments included in the scope of the audit include Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 1974 and its 1988 Protocol), Prevention of pollution from ships (MARPOL), Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW 1978), load lines (LL 66 and its 1988 Protocol), tonnage measurement of ships (Tonnage 1969) and regulations for preventing collisions at sea (COLREG 1972).

The Republic of Kenya became a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1973 and is currently a Council member, having first been elected in 2001 and re-elected for the 2018-2019 biennium on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, under Category C- which consists of countries *which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation and whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world.*



*Prof. Paul Maringa, Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport- Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development flanked by Mr. George Mcgoye, Ag. Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority( KMA) during the opening meeting of IMO's Audit of Kenya at the KMA headquarters.*