



**REMARKS BY AG. DIRECTOR GENERAL, KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY
AT THE TRADE FACILITATION & SOLAS CONVENTION AMENDMENT
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP FOR SHIPPERS AND CLEARING &
FORWARDING AGENTS IN NAIROBI REGION HELD ON 9TH & 10TH
MARCH 2016 AT THE HILTON HOTEL, NAIROBI AT 0900 HRS.**

The Chief Guest, CEO, Shippers Council of East Africa, Mr. Gilbert Langat,

The representative of the Secretary General, ISCOS, Mr Ken Mwigwe,

The CEO, KIFWA, Nairobi Region,

Workshop facilitators from our partnering agencies;

Distinguished guests and participants to this Workshop;

Members of the 4th Estate here present;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this early opportunity to welcome you all to this important workshop whose key objective is to educate and sensitize the participants on pertinent issues and developments in the industry. As most of you will be aware, this is just one among many forums that we have held in conjunction with our partners namely: KPA, KRA, KENTRADE, IRA, ISCOS, NCTTCA, KEBS, SCEA, CHASE BANK and KIFWA.

In its regulatory role, KMA has a broad range of responsibilities on maritime safety, marine pollution; maritime education and commercial maritime services, all intended to effectively facilitate trade between Kenya and the rest of the world. Since our creation, we have strived to progress each of the areas to various levels with a view to revamping and improving governance structures of the country's maritime sector. It goes without saying that any shortcoming in any of the services will surely affect trade both in goods

and services. It is therefore vital that adequate flow of capital, the availability and reliability of the services offered, the cost structure and the efficiency of trade facilitation are sustained for the development and growth of the country's economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This will be a very exciting and intense workshop. In the past we have enlightened participants on making wise choices in sharing of risks and responsibilities in their transport logistics in the choice of the appropriate INCOTERMS. Since I am not an expert in the terms, this area will be comprehensively covered by technical experts who will be speaking to you during the workshop. Other important topics on trade facilitation which include key developments that have been taking place in the industry will also be addressed during the forum. Some of the areas are: the forthcoming SOLAS Convention amendment on gross container weight verification which will be coming into force on 1st July 2016. This is an important area that needs critical attention to ensure that our Port is ready with all the arrangements in place for the implementation of the amendment, to ensure that exports passing through the Port of Mombasa are well prepared. This morning, time will be taken to sensitize the participants on the progress made in the preparations by the Steering Committee that was appointed to spearhead the task.

Other areas that will be covered include the status of the implementation of the Single Customs Territory, the Single National Window System; the Pre-clearance initiative at the Port; the proposed Advance Shipping information system, the new requirement of PVoC as well as the progress made in the elimination of the Non-Tariff Barriers along the corridor, all intended to inform you of the developments and goings on within the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya is well placed and endowed with natural maritime resources and opportunities, but due to limited national capacity we have not exploited these to the maximum possible. With the maritime sector carrying 92% of Kenya's international trade, the sector therefore plays a significant role in the economic and social development of this country. At the first ever National Maritime Conference which was held in February 2015, at the Kenya International Convention Center, the government, policy makers, the academia, maritime experts, tourism, the media and general public developed an action plan and road map for the development of policies and strategies that will position the maritime sector as a key driver for the economic development and growth of our beautiful nation.

Last week, the Integrated National Maritime Policy, which identifies common areas and avenues of integration among the various sectors, was launched in Mombasa with a view of developing policies which will shift the focus to the development of the blue economy as a secondary avenue for Kenya's national development and growth. The areas of focus include maritime security, maritime training and education, port infrastructure development, maritime cluster development all being agents of trade facilitation. KMA is the lead agency in this noble task and I wish to assure you all of the Authority's dedication and commitment to drive this initiative to fruition.

This, **Ladies and gentlemen**, will only be possible with a strong will and commitment by you all to apply new information gained in your businesses; have a clear strategic plan as well as a close cooperation between the business community, government agencies and all the relevant stakeholders. May I assure you that KMA is committed to this course and is prepared to ensure that there is the necessary cooperation between the business community and the relevant agencies involved in trade facilitation.

Your deliberations on the various topics will be of direct relevance to the efforts and strategies we are currently implementing in liaison with various stakeholders. Your conclusions and proposals will help us to improve and accelerate our positive

involvement with the realization of effective and efficient trade facilitation processes in the country. It is my sincere hope that the workshop will generate fruitful exchange of views and experiences among the participants, as you also get an opportunity to listen to the practitioners' perspective on issues that will positively inform your day to day decisions in your business transactions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me not pre-empt the presentations that have been so ably prepared by the speakers we have lined up for you today. It is my sincere hope that all of you take away from this Workshop something new for implementation and that you will also pass what you learn here, on to friends & partners involved in import/export business, for prosperity and sustainable progress.

However, before I take my seat, let me once again express my gratitude to our partners, KPA, KRA, KENTRADE, ISCOS, NCTTCA, Insurance Regulatory Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Shippers Council of East Africa, KIFWA and Chase Bank for continuously providing the needed support to make the trade facilitation workshops a success.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

