



AG. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SPEECH: GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR KMA'S HEADQUARTERS ON 24 FEBRUARY, 2017

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development,

The Governor, Mombasa County,

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport- Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development,

The Coast Regional Coordinator,

The County Commissioner, Mombasa County,

Hon. Abdul Swammad Shariff Nassir, the MP, Mvita Constituency,

The Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority,

The Ag. Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority,

The Former Chairman, Kenya Maritime Authority,

Esteemed Stakeholders,

The Kenya Maritime Authority fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all to join the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) fraternity in this momentous occasion for the Authority, the maritime sector and our nation.

Today, we mark another milestone on our path to progress; the commencement of the construction of ultramodern KMA Headquarters.

Ladies and Gentlemen

More than a decade ago, Kenya Maritime was established vide Presidential Order in 2004 as the regulator of the country's maritime affairs and mandated to establish and strengthen the regulatory and the institutional capacities needed to deal with among other issues, maritime safety and security, commercial shipping, maritime education and training, and marine environment protection. Since its establishment, KMA has been operating administratively from a leased building, which also has been acting as its official Headquarters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will all agree with me that, Kenya's Maritime Sector has immensely grown since 2004, and as the old adage goes, 'growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together'.

The swift growth and development we are experiencing and continue to experience in the Maritime sector is not by luck. Each and everyone one of you present here today has played an instrumental role in the growth. And for that reason we say, Asanteni Sana!

Ladies and Gentlemen

The growth of the maritime sector has resulted to an enlarged mandate for the Authority and an increased workforce to deliver on the country's extensive maritime agenda. The construction of an ultra-modern Headquarters in Mombasa for KMA will therefore make it possible to host KMA's increased workforce, foreign consulates, and the region's preeminent maritime professionals.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The construction of the Authority's headquarters conveys the Authority's recognition of the great maritime potential of the Coastal region and its prospective to progress further for the overall economic benefit of the country in general. It also signifies KMA's commitment to progress Kenya's maritime industry by optimizing the country's maritime resources and potential for the socio-economic benefit of all Kenyans.

Additionally, the construction of this novel facility will not only ensure a steady supply of sustainable solutions in the maritime industry, but also demonstrates our dedication and commitment towards achieving our vision of becoming a leading maritime administration transforming Kenya into a globally competitive nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I hereby express my best wishes to the contracted firm as they begin the construction of the Kenya Maritime Authority Headquarters. It is not an easy task, we know, but we believe that they will be able to create a maritime masterpiece out of it.

Finally, let us keep working together to make the difference we want in our maritime sector. *"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."*

Thank you

Cosmas Cherop

Ag. Director General

Kenya Maritime Authority