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Press Release

KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY ENHANCED MARITIME SAFETY COMPLIANCE CAMPAIGNS IN COASTAL WATERS AND LAKE VICTORIA

One of the Authority's key mandate is to ensure maritime safety and security on Kenyan waters in line with the Merchant Shipping Act, 2009. In this regard, the Authority has been collaborating with the national government enforcement agencies, county governments and key stakeholders in the enhancement of maritime safety and security on Kenyan territorial and inland navigable waters in order to enhance maritime safety compliance levels, reduce water incidents and accidents, protect the lives and property of Kenyan seafarers and the general public.

The Authority's enhanced maritime safety compliance campaigns began in May 2019 in Lake Victoria. The same campaigns commenced in Lamu County on 11th June, 2019, and will spread to Kwale and Kisumu Counties. This follows the issuance of a public notice by the Authority on April 23rd, 2019, requiring all boats and water crafts to be licensed before 20th May, 2019 (a copy of the public notice is attached for ease of reference).

Noteworthy, maritime accidents on Kenyan waters have been progressively increasing in the past 10 years in which 50% of the accidents have involved capsizing of vessels and 40% drowning cases related to unseaworthy vessels which are linked to low levels of compliance to maritime safety regulations by vessel owners and operators.

The Authority will continue to strengthen the maritime regulatory framework and ensure compliance to maritime safety regulations in order to reduce the number of water related accidents and protect the lives of Kenyan seafarers and the general public who use water

transport daily. The Authority urges all vessel owners and operators to cooperate and ensure their vessels are duly licensed in line with the Merchant Shipping Act, 2009, section 57 (1). Operating a vessel that is not licensed is an offence and failure to comply will lead to prosecution.

Maj (Rtd) George Nyamoko Okong'o
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY (KMA)
MOMBASA

For further information or any clarification, kindly contact us using the Email: info@kma.go.ke
or prd@kma.go.ke

www.kma.go.ke

Twitter handle: @KmaKenya

Facebook: Kenya Maritime Authority

