



KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY

BIO DATA – MRS. NANCY W. KARIGITHU

Executive Summary

Mrs. Karigithu is a maritime lawyer holding a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Nairobi, a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law and a Master's Degree in International Maritime Law from the IMO-International Maritime Law institute, (IMLI), Malta. She has also successfully completed other professional courses including the Short Course on Advanced Maritime Law, University of Southampton, UK, the Advanced Maritime Leaders Program (Singapore Maritime Academy) as well as the Advanced Management Program (Strathmore Business School). She is a Member of the Law Society of Kenya, the Institute of Directors as well as the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.

Current Appointment

She was appointed in December 2015 as the first Principal Secretary for the newly created State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs (SD&MA), in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure & Urban Development, with the overall mandate of promoting the national maritime and shipping industry, human resource development, ship registration as well as developing a data centre and an admiralty jurisdiction.

She guided Kenya's successful bid to host the Maritime Technology Cooperation Center for Africa (MTTC-Africa), the IMO/EU project aimed at building capacity in the African continent to mitigate climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from ships. The project is aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency and increased uptake of low-carbon technologies to mitigate effects of climate change in Africa from emission of harmful gasses from ships.

Immediate Past Experience

Between May 2015 and my appointment as PS in December 2015, she worked as a short term legal expert to the European Union Project on Critical Maritime Routes. Her duties included rendering advice on improvement of security, safety and environmental protection for the

maritime domain in the Western Indian Ocean. She was the founding Director-General of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), where she worked from 2006 to May 2015.

Her duties at KMA included the regulation, co-ordination and oversight of maritime affairs in Kenya by ensuring safety and security of shipping, persons at sea, maritime property including ships; the protection of the marine environment as well as the training and welfare of Kenyan seafarers. In this capacity, she spearheaded the formulation and enactment of the legal framework for the maritime sector, the Merchant Shipping Act, 2009 and over 40 sets of subsidiary maritime regulations, thus providing the legal mechanism for the enforcement of national standards and requirements relating to shipping and maritime transport.

She has represented and severally led Kenya's delegation to various international maritime fora, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), where her leadership in these meetings resulted in her personal recognition and election as the Vice Chairman of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee from 2009 to May 2015. Currently she sits on the Governing Council of the World Maritime University, based in Malmo, Sweden, the Board of Governors for the IMO International Maritime Training Institute, Malta and is also Vice President (Africa) for the International Maritime Satellite Organization.

In February 2015 (under my stewardship) Kenya hosted the international maritime community led by the IMO Secretary General, for the first ever National Maritime Conference. It was also under her watch that KMA operationalized the Regional Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (RMRCC) in Mombasa. The functions of the Mombasa RMRCC have since been broadened to include piracy information sharing thus serving as a useful point of contact for ships sailing in waters off the coast of Somalia regularly to request for advice or assistance. The Centre works in collaboration with international partners to boost regional capacity.

Other Relevant Experience

Between November 2004 to July 2005 she worked as the Maritime Transport Expert at the African Union: **Tasks included:**

- Implementing maritime transport decisions emanating from the AU Executive Council;
- Elaboration of the AU maritime transport Policy;

- Reviewing and redrafting key AU maritime transport documents, inter alia, The Maritime Transport Charter, Harmonized Maritime Transport Legislation & Regulations and Minimum Transport Policy Terms for AU Member States; undertaking an assessment of the implementation by AU member States, of maritime transport conventions; and giving technical assistance and advice where necessary.

Other key tasks included providing support and technical assistance to the development and writing of the African position on the role of maritime transport in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the final report of which was adopted by a conference of African Ministers of transport in April 2005 and the Head of States Summit on 5th July 2005; developing self-assessment questionnaires on Flag and Port State implementation of maritime conventions, reviewing and re-drafting model maritime legislation for adoption by the AU Member States. This preliminary work formed the basis for the review of the African Maritime Transport Charter that was adopted by the AU Summit in 2010.

MARITIME CONSULTANCY

In 1999, she was appointed to the Roll of Consultants by the IMO, in which capacity she was engaged in rendering professional services and competence to member states in Anglophone Africa aimed at the establishment/strengthening of maritime administrations in the continent.

Association for Women in the Maritime Sector in Eastern & Southern Africa (WOMESA):

2007

In partnership with the IMO she led the setting up and launch of the Association for Women in the Maritime Sector in Eastern & Southern Africa (WOMESA) where she served two terms as the Chairperson. WOMESA is the first regional body to champion and encourage through mentorship, the participation of women at senior management level in the maritime sector, an area that is predominantly male dominated. WOMESA brings together women maritime professionals in 24 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to mentor the next generation of female maritime leaders.

Awards and Recognition

- 2011** Appreciation award by National Nuclear Security Administration Department of Energy, USA in recognition of efforts to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear materials at the port of Mombasa through participation in the US Department of Energy's Mega-ports Initiative;
- 2012** US Coast Guard – Appreciation Award in Recognition of Support & Cooperation in the Fight against International Terrorism;
- 2017** Lifetime Achiever (East Africa) by the Global CEO, African Chapter;
- 2018** African Union Woman of the Year;

2018 Finalist - CEO Global Pan-African Awards for Africa's Most Influential Women in Business & Government